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# SERHA TIMES

South East Regional Health Authority



*Mr. Errol Greene, Regional Director, SERHA (right) and Dr. Sandra Chambers (left), Regional Technical Director, SERHA, cut ribbon to officially reopen Pines 2 at St. Joseph's Hospital (SJH) on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The facility will provide housing accommodation for cancer patients who come from far-away areas that require Radiotherapy treatment. Observing from left are: Ms. Angela Thomas, Director of Nursing Services, SJH; Dr. Natalie Whyllie, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals; and Ms. Joan Walker-Nicholson, Director of Nursing Services, Kingston Public Hospital.*

A temporary housing facility (Pines 2) for cancer patients at St. Joseph's Hospital was officially reopened on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Cancer patients who travel from remote areas for radiotherapy treatment, which can last from two to six weeks, will be housed in the newly built facility.

The renovation project, was done at a cost of \$15 million funded by SERHA. The 20-bed facility was built with showers, toilets, and separate rooms for doctors and nurses. The projects and operations team have ensured that Pines 2 meets the highest standards of comfort, safety, and modern healthcare. Meals will also be provided for these patients.

In his main address at the reopening ceremony, Regional Director, SERHA, Mr. Errol Greene, said that the improvements made to Pines 2 is a component of the Centre of Excellence's redevelopment strategy.

Mr. Greene commended the staff of the LINAC for providing quality care to its patients. "On behalf of the cancer patients, I express gratitude to the medical professionals for providing excellent service," he noted.

Speaking at the function, Dr. Christopher Munroe, Chief Executive Officer, SJH, said that he is pleased with the transformation that is taking place at the institution.

"Pines 2 will allow our cancer patients who travel from far distances for radiotherapy to have a place to stay until they have completed their treatment", he explained.

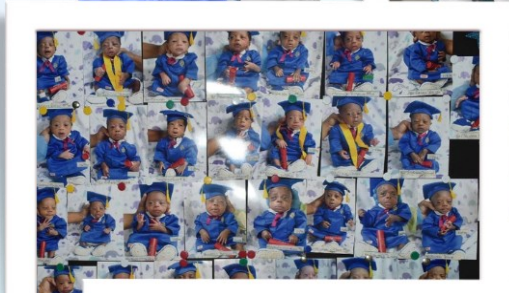
He further stated that he hopes that SJH will be the benchmark in cancer care and serve as a model for similar facilities across the Region.

The SJH is one of the major 10 hospitals that falls under the management of SERHA.

# Tiny Yet Mighty Initiative at the Spanish Town Hospital

The Spanish Town Hospital's (STH) pre-graduate programme for premature babies, 'Tiny Yet Mighty', is a powerful initiative. Mrs. Stacy-Ann Burnett-Brissett, Certified Registered Neonatal Nurse, Founder, Director of Tiny Yet Mighty, said that this project was inspired by God to celebrate the life of a premature neonate, which began in 2017 and has since expanded. This approach has been implemented by other Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) in Jamaica.

Mrs. Burnett-Brissett explained that it is the only graduation programme of its kind in the world. Babies aged 38 weeks and under received a diploma when they were discharged from the NICUs at STH. The management of the STH expressed highest commendations to the medical team for the exceptional work that they have been doing at the hospital.





# Jamaica to Benefit from Blood Donation Software



Jamaica will now have the benefit of a new software platform, e-Delphyn Donor, which is to streamline and enhance blood donation and management islandwide.

The announcement was made by Mr. Dunstan Bryan, Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, who spoke on Friday, June 14, 2024, at the World Blood Donor Day recognition ceremony. The ceremony was hosted at the offices of the National Blood Transfusion Service in Kingston under the theme '20 Years of Celebrating Giving: Thank you, Blood Donors'.

The software offers donor registration and management; blood drive scheduling and organisation; as well as donor health screening and deferral tracking. These are in addition to blood typing and cross-matching; inventory management for blood products; reporting and analytics for blood donation data; and integration with laboratory and hospital systems.

Through the use of the e-Delphyn, blood banks and transfusion services can streamline their operations, reduce errors, and improve the overall quality of the blood supply.

World Blood Donor Day is observed annually on June 14 to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion. It also serves to highlight and to celebrate the invaluable contribution of voluntary, unpaid blood donors to national health systems.



# \$1M Worth of Sanitization Equipment from Parkland Industrial Company Limited



Dr. Clayon Kelly, Maternal Foetal Medicine Specialist and Infection Prevention & Control Committee Chairman at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH), was the first to make use of the newly donated sanitization equipment from Parkland Industrial Company Limited in the presence of (L-R) Richard Reid, Business Development Manager, Parkland Industrial Company Limited; Mrs. Mernette Burton-Jones, Departmental Nurse Manager; Ms Candice Thompson, Deputy Director of Nursing Services, VJH and Dr. Garth McDonald, Senior Medical Officer, VJH.

The SERHA received sanitization equipment to the tune of JA\$1 million from Parkland Industrial Company Limited, a leading industrial packaging company in Jamaica. The donation included Touch Free Soap/Gel Dispensers. The handover event took place on Monday, June 3, 2024, at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH).

In his address at the event, Mr. Richard Reid, the Business Development Manager of Parkland Industrial Company Limited, emphasised the company's dedication to exceeding expectations by delivering superior products and services. He highlighted the critical role of proper sanitization in healthcare, especially during challenging times, stating:

*"Our sanitization stations are designed to enhance the safety and well-being of the dedicated healthcare professionals who tirelessly serve, and the patients who depend on them. This initiative is a testament to our mission of delivering best-in-class products and solutions, and we hope it contributes to a safer, healthier environment for everyone."*

Dr. Clayon Kelly, Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist, Infection Prevention & Control Committee Chairman at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, underscored the importance of sanitization, particularly in neonatal care:

*"Proper sanitization is paramount in neonatal care, where the most vulnerable patients require the highest standards of hygiene. The donation of these sanitization stations by Parkland Industrial Company Limited is crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of healthcare providers and our youngest patients. We are deeply grateful for this contribution, which significantly enhances our infection prevention efforts."*

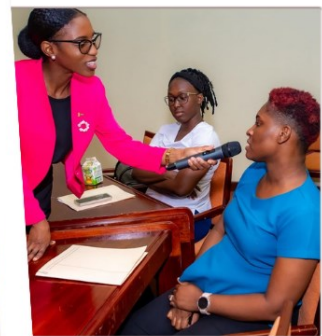
The sanitisation equipment will be distributed by SERHA to the hospitals in the region, namely the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, the Kingston Public Hospital, the Bustamante Children's Hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital, and the Spanish Town Hospital.



# Customer Service Training for Staff at VJH & KPH

The management of the Kingston Public and the Victoria Jubilee Hospitals trained 60 cadres of staff in customer service. These staff include nurses, doctors, porters, auxiliary staff, administrative personnel, and other support groups. The training was designed to equip the staff with the latest strategies and techniques in customer service, ensuring that they continue to deliver exceptional experiences to our valued customers. The one-day training seminar, which was held on Friday, June 14, 2024, at the Jamaica Conference Centre, was held under the theme: Transforming Customer Service Satisfaction for a Healthier Organization.

Ms. Pauline Roberts, Director of Human Resource and Industrial Relations, SERHA, said that more staff will be trained in customer service as we are compelled to look closely at how we deliver services based on public perception. Further she stated that she understood that the state of mind of a patient is equally important to their well-being as their physical condition, therefore we ought to treat them well.





# Regional Non-Communicable Disease Department Celebrates Sickle Cell Day



The Regional Non-Communicable Disease Department celebrated Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2024, at the Towers and VM Building. Members of the public received pamphlets about sickle cell, which helped to spread awareness. See pictorial highlights from the event:





## Dialysis Machines in SERHA's Hospitals to Improve Healthcare



Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA, along with Mr. Errol Greene, Regional Director, SERHA, examine Mr. Hugh Lawrence, a patient who was receiving dialysis treatment on one of the dialysis machines at STH, on September 12, 2022. Observing from left are: Ms. Jacqueline Ellis, Chief Executive Officer, STH, and Mrs. Novellette Robinson, Director of Nursing Services, STH.

SERHA takes note of the Jamaica Gleaner's Letter of the Day published on Friday, June 28, 2024, titled "Lack of dialysis machines hitting kidney disease patients hard." Between the period of September 2022 and January 2023, SERHA acquired thirty-three (33) haemodialysis machines, which have greatly bolstered the region's and, by extension, the nation's ability to provide essential treatment to patients with kidney disease. The details of the acquisition are as follows: On September 12, 2022, the Spanish Town Hospital (STH) received a donation of ten refurbished haemodialysis machines, valued at approximately \$28 Million Jamaican Dollars, from Renal Dynamics, a Florida-based company. STH was at that time also the recipient of a \$12 Million Jamaican Dollars donation from the National Health Fund and Transport Authority for three brand-new machines.

Additionally, in January 2023, SERHA purchased ten dialysis machines for STH at a cost of JA\$28,875,800, and another ten for the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) at a cost of US\$185,100.00. There are, therefore, a total of 18 machines in operation at STH. Five of the ten refurbished machines that STH had received had been transferred to KPH so the total at KPH is now 22 operational machines.

According to Dr. Jacqueline Wright-James, Senior Medical Officer, STH, the hemodialysis unit at STH treats patients ranging in age from 13 to 81 years. On average, the unit performs over 6,500 dialysis sessions per year. The number of patients on the waiting list has significantly fallen to 122 from a high of 291 since 2023. The team is actively exploring strategies to increase the number of sessions and thus reduce the numbers waiting for this life-sustaining intervention.

Mr. Errol Greene, Regional Director, SERHA, stated that these machines have improved healthcare for patients with kidney disease. The standard of care for renal patients has improved tremendously, providing dialysis treatment to 62 patients twice weekly at STH and 72 patients twice weekly at KPH. He further commented that there are plans to expand dialysis services at the Center of Excellence at St. Joseph's Hospital to deal with the increasing number of emergency sessions per month.

# VJH Successfully Conducting Four In-Utero Transfusions



*Congratulations to the outstanding staff at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital for successfully conducting four in utero transfusions.*

The management of SERHA congratulates the outstanding staff at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH) for successfully conducting four in utero transfusions to date since 2017, the last of which was done in June 2024. The ground-breaking procedure involves the direct transfusion of compatible red blood cells into the fetus through a needle inserted into the mother's abdomen and into the umbilical cord that supplies the unborn child with its nutrients.

The team of OBGYN's and maternal foetal medicine specialists, doctors Clayon Kelly, Claudia Allen-Burton and Leo-Alexi Walker successfully conducted two transfusions two weeks ago at the hospital.

Dr. Walker highlighted the importance of these interventions in preventing severe cases of foetal anaemia. The first case was done at VJH in 2017 with the assistance of a maternal foetal medicine specialist from overseas. The 2019 case was done by local specialists as well as the two cases two weeks ago. The babies transfused in 2017 and 2019 are both well, and the recent transfused babies will be delivered next month.

Foetal anaemia is typically detected through specialised ultrasound scans, such as Doppler ultrasounds, which monitor blood flow and detect signs of anaemia. Although symptoms may not be apparent, severe cases can lead to complications like internal swelling, necessitating vigilant monitoring and timely medical intervention.

*Congratulations*



# Capacity Building Workshop for Administrative Assistants

Mrs. Joan Nicholson-Walker, Director of Nursing Services at Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), spearheaded a highly productive capacity-building workshop for administrative assistants on July 30, 2024, at the National Chest Hospital.

The workshop, held under the theme "Unleashing Potential, Embracing the Change," focused on enhancing the skills and competencies of administrative assistants within the healthcare sector. Attendees engaged in a series of interactive sessions designed to improve their administrative capabilities, with a particular emphasis on efficiency, communication, and organizational skills.

Some of the topics that were presented by experts included taking effective and accurate meetings and communicating with confidence and clarity. Participants left with practical tools and renewed motivation to excel in their roles. The pictorial highlights are below:

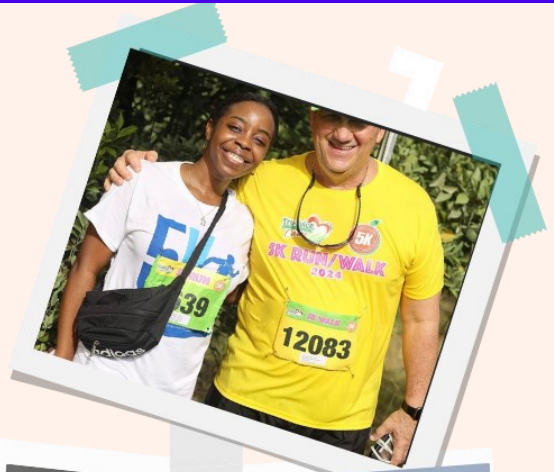




# Linstead Hospital Benefit from 9th Staging of Tru-Juice 5K

The Linstead Hospital benefited from the ninth staging of the Tru-Juice 5K Run/Walk, which was held on Sunday, July 21, 2024, at the Tru-Juice orchards and orange groves in Bog Walk, St. Catherine.

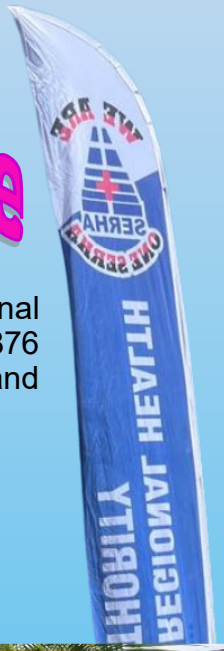
The funds raised from the event will go towards purchasing medical equipment and supplies to enhance the hospital's day-to-day operations and to improve patient care. The management of the hospital thanked Trade Winds Citrus Limited for their generous contribution to the hospital over the years.







# Regional Office Beach Lyme



In commemoration of Health Care Workers Appreciation Month in July, the Regional Office Staff Welfare Committee hosted a beach lyme for all Regional Office staff at 876 Beach in Trelawny on August 17, 2024. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our team.

See pictorial highlights below:





# Grennell's Road Safety 5K in Support of Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre



*Mr. Alphanso Grennell, (right) Managing Director at Grennell's Driving School, shares a light moment with Mr. Oraine Elliot, a motor vehicle accident survivor, at the launch of the Grennell's Road Safety 5K held in the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Conference Room on August 2, 2024. Also sharing the moment (standing right) are Mr. Dwayne Francis, CEO of the Liguanea Region of Hospitals, Dr. Rory Dixon, (centre) Senior Medical Officer, and Ms. Andrea Christie, Director of Nursing Services at the SJGRC.*

The Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre (SJGRC), one of the specialist facilities managed by SERHA has been selected as one of the beneficiaries for the 11th Grennell Road Safety 5K Run, Walk, and Roll event, August 17, 2024. This year's patron is Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP, Minister of Health and Wellness. The event has been endorsed by Olympic World champion sprinter, Mrs. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

This year marks a significant milestone for the SJGRC as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. For seven decades, the Centre has been a beacon of hope and recovery for individuals with physical disabilities, offering comprehensive rehabilitation services that empower patients to regain their independence and improve their quality of life.

The Centre focuses on rehabilitating patients with spinal cord injuries, both traumatic and non-traumatic, offering 28 adult beds and 14 beds for children. Additionally, it operates outpatient services, including a general orthopedic clinic on Tuesdays and an artificial limb clinic on the first Fridays of each month.



# Kingston and St. Andrew Health Services Marks World Mosquito Day 2024

The Kingston and St. Andrew Environmental Health Unit commemorated World Mosquito Day under the theme “Mek Mosquito Breeding Haad, Tek Back Yuh Yard,” with a number of activities, including a march to sensitise residents about the impact of mosquitoes and the disease they cause on August 20, 2024.

The march, which was carried out by vector control, health promotion, and public health staff, proceeded through sections of Cross Roads, Kingston, as the staff held up placards with preventative messages such as “Where there is no mosquitoes, there is no Dengue, Chik V, Zik V, and Malaria” and “Practice the 4S in Dengue Prevention and Control.”

A ceremony was later held at Carib 5 Parking Lot in an effort to further encourage residents to participate in preventing, reducing, and destroying all mosquito breeding sites.





# HR Matters



## STUDY LEAVE

Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service

### 7.8 2 SUPPORT FOR STUDY LEAVE

- i). Officers who are granted Study Leave may be eligible for financial support depending on the category within which the course of study falls.
- ii) Officers who are selected to pursue Government mandated courses of study (Category 1) would qualify for full financial support from public funds with no forfeiture of any accumulated vacation leave.
- iii) Officers who are selected to pursue job-related or future advancement courses of study Category 2 or 3 may receive the equivalent of up to two (2) years fully-paid leave. The officer would be required to forfeit leave or salary equivalent to his/her maximum leave accumulation. Any additional leave required to complete the course of study shall be without pay.
- iv) Officers who are granted study leave to pursue courses of study under Category 4 may receive modest support, at the discretion of the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department.

### 7.8 3 BONDING

Bonding Officers who are granted study leave and receive support from public funds may be required to execute a loan agreement as outlined in sections 5.7 (iii – v), of these Orders.

### 7.8.4 DAY RELEASE

Officers may be granted a combination of day release during the academic year and full time study leave during the summer period to attend to attend any approved tertiary institution. This will only be considered where evening classes are not available for the particular course. The following conditions will apply:

- i) The officer will cease to earn vacation leave at the commencement of the course until its completion.

Continuation in the next publication.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

DR. BARRY WINT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## SCHOLARSHIP Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for **Dr. Barry Wint Memorial Scholarship**

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- Medical Physics
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- Hospital/Health Care Management
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Tell us what is happening in your facility. Call Shuwana Johnson, Public Relations Manager, SERHA, at (876) 816-8058 or send an email to: [shuwanaj@serha.gov.jm](mailto:shuwanaj@serha.gov.jm). You may also call Mr. Raemone Collier, Public Relations Officer, SERHA, at (876) 540-0603 or send an email to: [raemonec@serha.gov.jm](mailto:raemonec@serha.gov.jm)