

2023 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Thank you to our supporters and friends of Jamaica YES,

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for your continued support of this important cause, especially when there are so many other nonprofits from which to choose. We want to take a moment to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your generosity benefitting the school children in the underserved communities of Jamaica. As the nation transitions from the challenges posed by the pandemic, your support ensures students returning to the classroom can resume their journey to achieving their full potential.

2023 fundraising highlights:

- Our third annual golf tournament was a success, thanks to the collective efforts of our sponsors, volunteers, and players. A shout-out to Shane Van Loon from Amerigroup Insurance, we greatly appreciate your continued support as the tournament sponsor.

Please save the date on your calendar for Saturday, October 5, 2024

- The completed computer lab at Belfield Primary School in St Mary Parish was dedicated in May. This became a reality due to the generosity of the agency owners of Globe Life Liberty Nation Division.
- The annual Bowl-a-thon was held in June. All participants had a great time while raising money to assist the school children in Jamaica. Please join us for the 2024 event in May. Date to be confirmed later.
- Donate 2 Impact (D2I), continues to be a consistent fundraiser for us. Please check out our designated campaign dates in the calendar of events below. This is your opportunity to pass along unwanted clothing, bedding, fabric, books, furniture, etc while helping the cause.
- Does your employer have a donation processing platform (ie, American Online Giving Foundation, Bright Funds)? If so, consider making Jamaica Youth Education Support your non-profit for charitable giving.

During 2023, Jamaica YES continued to support 13 schools in five parishes in Jamaica during the 2023/2024 school year. We are looking forward to 2024 and the positive impact that will be made in the lives of the underserved school children. We couldn't have done it without you and as mentioned above, we are grateful for your generosity and support.

Last but definitely not least, please check out our new revamped website!! We hope you like the new look.

We are wishing you and yours the very best in 2024.

President – Conrod Goulbourne

In remembrance:

In May, 2023, Jamaica YES suffered the sudden loss of a truly invaluable supporter, Mr. Danny Pantry from Jamaica. More than just one of our biggest advocates, he was a great friend. Danny was someone who had a big heart and saw how Jamaica YES was making a significant impact on the underserved school children in Jamaica. With everyone he met, whether another Jamaican or a tourist, he told them about us, making them aware of what we are doing and how they could help make a difference. Over the years, he volunteered to take board members to various schools we support around the island, regardless of the distance or the time it took. Danny seemed to know someone or they knew of Danny wherever we went, it was amazing.

When anyone asked Danny "..... doesn't that take a lot of your time, his immediate response was "you've got to give back what you can". He said "this breakfast program is really making a difference in these kids lives. These kids don't have very much. And you get an amazing sense of gratitude and appreciation when you visit these places." Danny, you are and will always be greatly missed, a great ambassador of Jamaica YES.

RIP dear friend



Donations can be made at: [Jamaica YES Donate](#) or [scan this QR code](#)

or

Checks can be made payable to: **Jamaica YES**
4413 Cannock Drive
McKinney, TX 75070



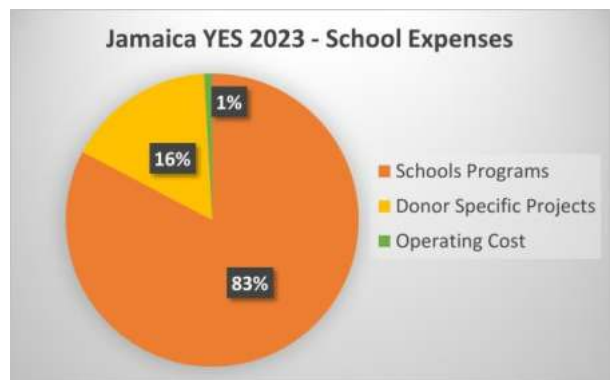
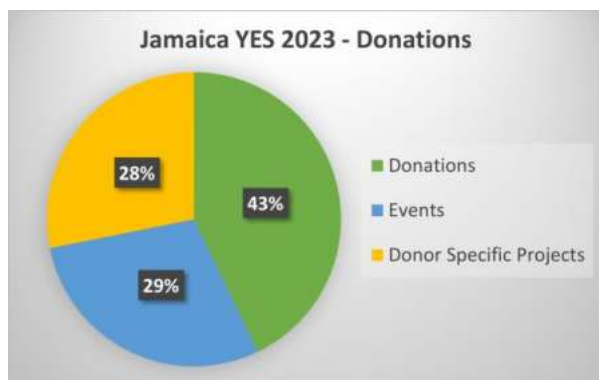
Your Impact Through Jamaica YES

The number of Basic (Pre-K) and Primary (Elementary) schools reaching out to us for assistance has increased from last year due to higher unemployment, reduced household income and rampant inflation resulting in a greater number of students in need.

We express our gratitude to our supporters for their consistent generosity. Your assistance is instrumental in our mission to "Changing Children's Lives."

Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. A hungry child represents lost opportunities, but providing nourishment opens the door to endless possibilities for their future. Your support is helpful in shaping a brighter path for these students.

The following charts show the breakdown of donations and school expenses during the 2023 calendar year:



2023 school support

- 897 # of students funded for the breakfast program
- 27 # of students provided round trip school transportation
- 13 # of schools supported
- 5 # of 14 parishes the schools are located in

Another way you can help make a difference

Another avenue through which we received donations this year was employer based donation processing platforms like American Online Giving Foundation and Bright Funds. These are just two of several programs that your company can sign up for allowing employees to donate a portion of their salary to a nonprofit through a payroll deduction, often times matching the employees contribution.

Jamaica Youth Education Support (Jamaica YES) is on the list of approved nonprofits. Please consider making Jamaica Youth Education Support your non-profit for charitable giving. If your company is not currently enrolled, please consider making a request for them to do so.

CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES



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2023 SCHOOL PROJECTS

Belfield Primary School - St Mary Parish

In 2022, after several years of attempting to establish a computer room at Belfield Primary, Agency Owners from Globe Life Liberty National Division donated their personal funds to make the dream a reality. In May 2023, the new technology center was dedicated before an audience that included students, teachers, parents, honored alumni and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Youth. Several of the students have never had the opportunity to even turn on a computer and now, due to the generosity of over 80 Globe Life donors living in the U.S. they will be well prepared to enter the next phase of their education.

Globe Life – Company motto “Make Tomorrow Better”

Click on the Belfield title above or this photo to see additional and videos of the dedication event.



Ewarton Basic School – St Catherine Parish

In 2023, Fred & Cynthia Pennekamp, long time visitors of Jamaica (and big supporters of Jamaica YES), established the Donald (Danny) Pantry Memorial Fund. As mentioned on the first page of this newsletter Danny was a huge factor in sharing information about Jamaica YES and the plight of the underserved school children of Jamaica with potential donors. He was also an alumni of Ewarton Basic School. In his memory, the Pennekamp's and several of Danny's friends are now financing a three phase project at Ewarton Basic that includes the eradication of severe termite infestation at the school (completed), rehabilitating a partially framed structure (in progress) to provide increased classroom space to accommodate a significant increase in student enrollment due in part to the implementation of the Jamaica YES breakfast program and rebuilding the ceiling/roof over the kitchen and children's restroom area due to extensive termite damage (final phase).

- No roof
- Progress on the roof and room
- Some of termite damage



SCHOLARSHIPS

Jamaica YES awarded privately funded scholarships (**Ruth Graham Memorial scholarships** and the **Viola Roberts Memorial Scholarship**) in 2023 for students transitioning from primary (elementary) school to high school. All high schools in Jamaica require tuition unlike in the US where most high schools are publicly funded. We are proud to share the names of the scholarship recipients and wish all future applicants the best. Click this link to be taken to the scholarship page for 2024: [Jamaica YES Scholarships](#).

2023 Recipients

Ruth Graham Memorial Scholarship recipients

1. Shenel Allen
2. Dantae Ricketts
3. Kayara Smith
4. Alwind Gordon

Viola Roberts Memorial Scholarship recipient

1. Tashanay McLaren

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2023 FUNDRAISING

Bowl-A-Thon

Board members and friends participated in our annual Bowl-A-Thon on Saturday, June 24th at Pinstack Bowling Alley in Allen, Texas. Everyone had a great time while raising funds based on each bowlers pledges to support the school children in Jamaica.

The 2024 Bowl-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 18th. Location TBD. Additional information will be coming in the near future. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

2023 Changing Children's Lives Golf Tournament *(click on event title to see photos from the tournament)*

On Saturday, September 16th, we hosted our third annual "Changing Children's Lives" golf tournament at Watters Creek golf course in Plano Texas. It was great to see familiar faces from our previous tournaments along with first timers enjoying a round of golf, beautiful weather and an amazing BBQ lunch. There were opportunities to win several raffle prizes and participate in silent and online auctions. We want to thank our sponsors, golfers, in-kind contributors, financial donors, and volunteers, for making the tournament a great success, without you, there would be no golf tournament.

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024 8:00AM

2024 CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES GOLF TOURNAMENT
 WATTERS CREEK GOLF COURSE IN PLANO, TEXAS (SAME LOCATION AS THE PREVIOUS TWO TOURNAMENTS).

Donate 2 Impact (D2I) – North Texas area

Our supporters donated their unwanted clothes, household items, books, etc. on behalf of Jamaica YES during one or more of our 6-two week campaigns in 2023. D2I pays us 9 cents per pound for all items received and we thank everyone in the North Texas area for helping us raise \$6,875 this year.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteering for local nonprofits that focus on children in the community is something we find rewarding. It not only allows us to contribute to meaningful causes but also provides a chance to work with like-minded individuals and groups. It also serves as an opportunity to further raise awareness for Jamaica YES and the plight of many school children in Jamaica.

(Click on the title to each activity below to see photo album)

Adopt-A-Hwy in Allen, Texas

Adopt A Highway - We collected 400 pounds of litter this year along our 1-mile stretch of adopted highway in Allen, Texas. We were awarded the "Adopted by Jamaica YES" signs in 2019 for "Keeping Allen Beautiful" and have collected in excess of 2,400 pounds of litter in the last 5 years.

Feed the City (Tango Tab)

We attended 3 Feed the City events and participated in creating over 10,000 meals for the homeless in the city of Allen, Texas

Frisco Family Services

Members of Jamaica YES volunteered at the Frisco Golf Classic Golf Tournament, benefiting Frisco Family Services. This was the fifth year of both volunteering and donating a raffle gift for this event. The tournament raises funds for Frisco Family Services benefiting families in crisis with multi-faceted assistance.

Minnie's Food Pantry

Conducted a food drive collecting almost 600 pounds of non-perishable items for food insecure families in North Texas.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Instagram

We ended 2023 with 1,066 Facebook followers from 10 different countries. Our goal for 2024 is at least 1,500 followers. We are grateful to all of our current followers and encourage you to continue spreading the word about Jamaica YES. This exposure provides us with an opportunity to share information about upcoming events and achievements with our supporters, donors, and sponsors—both current and potential. Spread the word and help us achieve our goal of at least 1,500 Facebook followers in 2024.

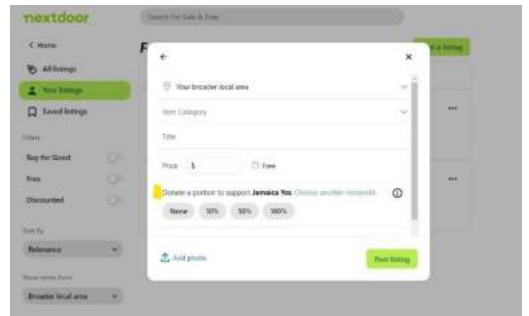
While our primary focus has been on increasing Facebook Likes/Followers, we recognize that not everyone is on Facebook. There is an additional universe of potential friends and supporters on Instagram. We are on Instagram, albeit not as active as our Facebook presence, but in 2024, the plan is to increase our postings on the Instagram platform. Currently we are at 56 followers and our goal is to reach no less than 100. Your support in growing our number of Instagram followers would be greatly appreciated. You can find us at [jamaicayesdallas](https://www.instagram.com/jamaicayesdallas), (the username jamaicayes had already been taken by an unrelated party).

Facebook: [Jamaica YES](https://www.facebook.com/jamaicayes) Instagram: [jamaicayesdallas](https://www.instagram.com/jamaicayesdallas)

** Don't forget to visit our newly updated website! www.jamaicayes.org

Nextdoor App

Nextdoor is an app used by individuals to communicate with others in surrounding neighborhoods. If you post something for sale on Nextdoor, there is an option that comes up asking whether or not you would like to donate a portion of the sales price to a designated nonprofit (0%, 10%, 50% or 100%). If you would like Jamaica YES to benefit from your sale, you can find us listed as Jamaica YES on the Nextdoor app.



2024 Calendar

January

23rd to February 4th - Donate 2 Impact
 27th – Feed the City**

February

1st to 4th - Donate 2 Impact
 10th – Minnie's Food Pantry**
 24th – Allen Litter pick up**

March

4th to 17th - Donate 2 Impact
 21st – US vs Jamaica CONCACAF Semi-finals

April

20th – Allen Litter pick up**
 22nd to May 5th - Donate 2 Impact
 27th – Feed the City**

May

Month of the Child in Jamaica
 1st to 5th – Donate 2 Impact
 11th – Minnie's Food Pantry**
 18th - Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser**

June

Caribbean American Heritage Month
 10th to 23rd - Donate 2 Impact
 TBD – Frisco Family Services Golf Classic**

July

1st – International Reggae Day
 20th – Allen Litter pick up**
 27th – Feed the City**

August

1st – Jamaica Emancipation Day
 6th – Jamaica Independence Day
 5th to 18th - Donate 2 Impact
 10th – Minnie's Food Pantry**

September

15th to 17th – Minnie's Food Pantry food drive

October

5th Changing Children's Lives Golf Tournament **
 7th to 20th - Donate 2 Impact
 26th – Feed the City**

November

2nd – Allen Litter pick up**
 9th – Minnie's Food Pantry**

December

9th to 22nd - Donate 2 Impact

** volunteer opportunity

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