

Jamrock VOLUNTEER effect



The Official Newsletter of
Projects Abroad Jamaica

June 2013 Issue No. 54

ProjectsAbroad

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM | 2 |
| Patrick WARNKE STORY | 3 |
| JOE MARTIN STORY | 4 |
| CARE PROJECT UPDATE | 5 |
| CULTURE AND COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATE | 5-6 |
| MEDICINE PROJECT UPDATE | 6 |
| SPORTS PROJECT UPDATE | 6 |
| TEACHING PROJECT UPDATE | 6 |
| JOURNALISM PROJECT UPDATE | 6 |
| MONTEGO BAY PROJECT UPDATE | 6-7 |
| HIGHLIGHTS | 8 |
| DONATIONS | 8 |
| SOCIAL EVENTS | 8-10 |
| MONTEGO BAY SOCIAL EVENTS | 10 |
| WHAT IS ON THE CALENDAR? | 11 |
| SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACTS | 11 |
| PROJECTS ABROAD JAMAICA CONTACT DETAILS | 11 |

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM



**Projects Abroad Jamaica team
members at The Evening of Excellence**

May I help you? As though to embrace wholeheartedly the slogan of Projects Abroad to Help...Learn...and Explore, this was the question that personified the actions of volunteers in Jamaica for the month of May. The volunteers provided service at the highest level, always asking for more ways to help and for more projects to help with. We had a record number of volunteers who arrived this month doing two and three different projects for months at a time. If you have ever received the adrenaline rush of great news, or experienced the pounding of your heart in your head when someone does something extra special for you, or felt the tingling in your palms after a needed tight and warm embrace, or the sudden weakness that cause your knees to buckle when you are

pleasantly surprised then you have a great cognizance of the kinds of moments that our volunteers created during the month of May 2013.

A total of 18 volunteers graced the shores of Jamaica this month. The Medicine Project received the highest number at 5, only two more than the Care Project. The Teaching, Building and Maroon Projects each received 2 new volunteers while the Sports, Disaster Management, Journalism and Engineering Projects each received 1 volunteer. The host family and placement partners of Projects Abroad provide unwavering support and assistance to our volunteers and to the organization in general. We thank them for their help and applaud their dedication to being a part of the equation of greater good..

Our volunteers are to us like a big, well wrapped gift at Christmas. You know it's great and you like the beautiful wrapping and you become overwhelmed with joy when you see the gift, hold it and enjoy it. Our volunteers are invaluable, gracious, humble, kind. We cannot say thank you enough to them for their services to uplift humanity in this little island. They take their work to help seriously, like a soldier given orders. They give their love relentlessly like a first time mother with her new born. They work long hours like doctors in a hospital. They know the clients whom they serve like they do their best friends. They have no fears or insecurities about who they are. They trust with their hearts and not with instinct. They accept people without judgment. They ask "May I help?" and really mean it!

Regards,

Team Jamaica

(Bridgette B. Barrett - Country Director, Cherricha Jacobs - Assistant Country Director & Desk Officer, , Collette Kerr - Project Officer (Teaching & Medicine), Stacy- Ann Barrett - (Office Assistant & Project Officer (Culture & Community), Patrina Thomas-Morrison - Project Officer (Care), Sanikia Morgan - Volunteer Liaison Officer, Pettia Williams - Volunteer Coordinator)

PATRICK WARNKE'S STORY



A student participates in Patrick's learning activity

Most people shy away from challenges, but 22 year old Patrick Warnke embraces challenges with pleasure. He decided he wanted to volunteer on the Care Project in Jamaica because he wanted to help children, and not just any children but those with special learning needs. At his placement with the Learning Centre he provided diligent individual tutoring in mathematics, spelling, reading and phonics. Outside of the classroom setting he teaches physical education and trains the children for Sports Day.

Patrick is most personable, a quality which helps him to effortlessly get the cooperation of the children and by extension command their respect. The children love him and equally too the placement staff and supervisor. "He is so great with the children. He gets results in children that we have never been able to get" remarked his placement supervisor.

The children enjoy having him around and daily they seek his approval and love. On any given day at work one can hear multiple children affectionately calling him "Uncle Patrick", "Uncle Patrick." He has observed that there are limited resources which make his job even more challenging. He uses rhymes, singing and colours to get the children to learn and recall what he has taught them. He understands well the different learning styles of each of the children with whom he works and so he uses audio, visual and kinesthetic methodologies to teach various lessons.

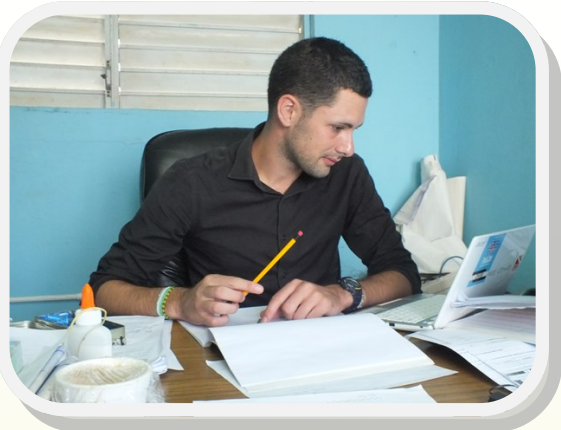
He loves sports and so was happy to independently develop a Physical Education programme for the children. He teaches them about their health and engages them in diverse outdoor fitness and fun activities. Patrick is multi-talented and wants to see the children progress in all aspects of their development. His appreciation for the small things in life has deepened and he has learnt that real happiness comes from being content despite the circumstances, a constant reminder when he looks on the face of a child he works with.



Patrick assists a student with her reading.

Patrick has been outstanding not just in his efforts but in the academic performances he has been able to yield from the children. He will always be loved and remembered by the staff who are very sad that he will be leaving soon. They are thankful for his work and wish him the best in completing his Economics Degree in Germany.

JOE MARTIN'S STORY



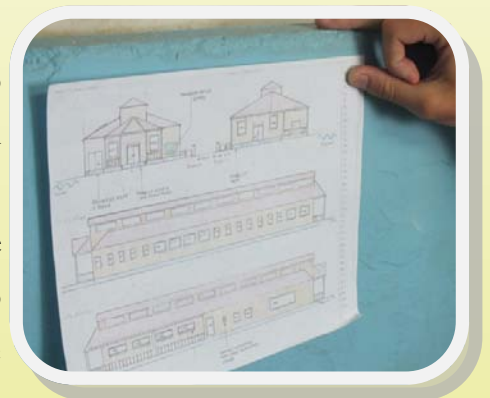
Joe working on his architectural design

With close to 8 years of experience as an engineer, baccalaureate honours degree PRO volunteer Joe Martin is everything but the average Joe. His boyish looks and soft-spoken nature conceal his wealth of knowledge and diverse skills. He chose to volunteer in Jamaica because he wanted to contribute to the built environment in Jamaica. He is passionate about what he does and enjoys learning new things. Unaccustomed to the very hands-on and practical ways of designing he was instantaneously forced to rely a lot more on his

theoretical and practical knowledge and far less on state-of-the-art technological drawing tools, as these were non-existent at the Roads and Works Department of the St. Elizabeth Parish Council where he works.

He beams when he talks about his experience at work, completing hand drawings, coaching staff and conducting detailed inspections of various buildings and city drainage systems during field work. The honour has been given to Joe to design a library for the town of Black River which not only preserves and complements the existing antique buildings but which highlights the futuristic nature of architectural engineering. Each week he adds something to the drawing, working hard to produce something historical yet modern. Joe is well loved and trusted by his colleagues at the Roads and Works department. He is given the task to lead design assignments and guide staff, a privilege never before extended to a non-local engineer.

Joe loves chess and he enjoys reading, two activities which keep his brain alert and tuned for the demanding and often complicated world of engineering. He has learnt to take things more slowly because he is forced to with only a hands-on approach at his disposal in Jamaica. He learnt new ways of completing certain types of drawings by hand. A deep intellectual, Joe's wittiness is sure to put a smile on the face of all those persons with whom he comes in contact.



One of Joe's designs

Projects Abroad Jamaica is proud of him and the rich legacy he will leave, the inerasable imprint he has made and the many local engineers whose knowledge he has so gracefully increased.

CARE PROJECT UPDATE

The Care Project welcomed three new volunteers this month. There were a total of nine volunteers on the Care Project in April 2013. The volunteers embraced well the fact that May was celebrated as Child's Month. They engaged children in activities that taught them about their rights as children and they shared many gifts and spent extra time providing love to those who feel abandoned. The settings in which the volunteers worked - home, schools, child protection services, orphanages or day care centres did not change how they worked or why they did what they did, they simply celebrated the life of a child in their own way and shared their life in meaningful ways.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES

Building Project Update

One down, infinite more to go! A mantra echoed in the hearts of the four Building volunteers in Jamaica. They make their way daily through the rugged terrain to the hilly pastures of Robbins Hall in Manchester to construct yet another home for an elderly man in need. They enjoy what they do and they are the best at it. They understand what hard work and deadlines mean. They get it done right and on time. We are eager to see the finished product of their labour.



**Loic taking stones to fill the foundation
at Mr. Johnson's house**

Disaster Management Project Update

You can never be too prepared for the unexpected, and this is what the Disaster Management volunteers did for the month of May. Jamaica notoriously gets many days of rains in May which sometimes results in flooding and landslides. The volunteers conduct rigorous safety drills in remote communities and inspect homes and shelters to ensure they meet the minimum standards for emergency situations. It is not an easy job but they do it with pride.

Maroon Project Update

There is no place like home. Or a new home in a different country. The Maroon project volunteers enjoy living and working in Accompong. They teach the children in the community and help with farming activities. They learn from elders and embrace the unique culture of Maroons. They feel honoured to be a part of the secluded society of brilliant, creative and energetic people in Accompong.

Engineering Project Update

The Engineering Project is sprouting buds in Jamaica. This new project now has two professional volunteers working at the Roads and Works department of the Parish Council. The volunteers work well together and seamlessly fit in with the local placement staff. The best is yet to come from these two whose knowledge and skills can only add more value to their placement.

MEDICINE PROJECT UPDATE

Medicine volunteers helped in the hospital to conduct ward rounds, and assist patients in the various clinics at the hospital. They assisted nurses to check vital signs and changed IV lines. They also learnt from medical doctors through observation on ward rounds and revising of medical reports and tests.

SPORTS PROJECT UPDATE

Being very passionate about sports and enthusiastic to help develop the skills of talented children are the primary prerequisites to become a Sports volunteer. The volunteers on the sports project are quite dynamic in their skills set, experience and knowledge. They have worked with scores of children on a group and class basis. The children quickly grasp the new technical skills being taught by volunteers in football, cricket, and netball and are eager to impress the volunteers with how much they have learnt.

TEACHING PROJECT UPDATE

The Teaching Project has been doing very well. Volunteers helped with individual tutoring in mathematics, spelling, reading and writing. An important highlight of the Teaching project is the cultural exposure to the French language that Estelle Fischer provides to the children at the Bethabara Primary and Junior High School. The volunteers have done well in improving the literacy skills of children in Jamaica.

JOURNALISM PROJECT UPDATE

The world is driven by technology and communication and the Journalism volunteers wanted to learn the behind the scenes activities that create the incredible entertainment and informative programmes we enjoy on both television and radio programmes. They not only helped with recording and editing video footage but they learnt the correct way to get great production done with a little effort and creativity. They have used their exceptional writing skills to complement the work of the NCU Media Group.

MONTEGO BAY PROJECT UPDATES



Care Volunteer entertains a child at his placement

During the month of May, there was a wider range in the age of children cared for. The observations by the volunteers were the same however: the low self-esteem of children and the low literacy levels of the children. These two issues were met with great concern and subsequently interventions were designed to address these issues. For the older children at Garland, the volunteer started a project to create personalized name tags in the form of mini-

dream boards. A dream board is a collection of images, words and colours which reflect their visions and desires in life that help them to be clear on what they really want. This featured themes about career, family and owning assets as well as empowering words. The children greatly enjoyed this experience of creating a pictorial representation of themselves. From this exercise as well as from helping with homework, the volunteer realised that many of the children are not at the age appropriate reading level or know how to use the computer efficiently to do homework. To address this he designed a system for the five new computers received by the home recently from the Child development Agency. This new system includes several software for improving numeracy and literacy skills as well as a reward/gratification aspect that will track the progress of each child as they learn more to use the computer. At the homes with the younger children, observations were made that the younger children also were not at their age appropriate levels of development. At Robin's Nest, play has been converted to intended learning with more one on one attention given to each child. At Blossom Garden, there is now a designated reading/story time slot for the toddlers.



Care Volunteer comforts a child at her placement

Every day during this thirty minute period, stories are read to the toddlers before their nap time. The aim of this is to help the children develop the interest in reading, the importance of sharing, colours and numbers. Previously children have been observed to rip books and toys apart as they do not know how to play with them or how to share amongst themselves. As such they are not given these items any at all, which unfortunately delays what they should be learning.

MONTEGO BAY VETERINARY MEDICINE AND ANIMAL CARE

PROJECT UPDATE

At the Montego Bay Animal Haven in May it has been more of the same: vet visits, feeding strays and the invaluable task of caring for the myriad of dogs, cats and birds at the facility. The assistance from Sandie Jensen was invaluable with the great number of tasks that need to be completed each day. The volunteer also had the experience of working in different settings from caring for horses, transporting animals to the vet as well as interacting with the strays on the road. This experience was very fulfilling for her as a person who loves to volunteer.

HIGHLIGHTS

Journalism volunteers produce work that is aired on Live Radio.

Building volunteers begin construction on a new home for an elderly man in Manchester.

Montego Bay volunteers boost the self-esteem of children in orphanage by creating dream boards.

DONATIONS

Former Maroon Project volunteer Kevin Watson donated 17 pairs of shoes, 10 bags, 14 pants and 10 shirts to the Maroon Project on May 14, 2013.

SOCIAL EVENTS

FOOTBALL MATCH



Volunteers play an intense game of football

Volunteers eagerly attended the football match which was held on May 08, 2013. The Projects Abroad Jamaica team played a friendly match with the Greenvale under17 team and won 4 goals to 2. The team which was one man short consisted of both male and female volunteers who tackled, marked and outwitted the Greenvale boys. Pushed by the cheers of Projects Abroad Staff and volunteers the Projects Abroad team scored the first goal within 15 minutes of the first half. The Greenvale team managed to equalize and then score another goal just before half time but their celebration was short-lived after the Projects Abroad team returned with hunger, scoring one goal within the first minute of the second half and then two more only a few minutes apart.

PATOIS AND CULTURE CLASS

Volunteers enjoyed the Patois and Culture Class which was held on May 14, 2013. The Patois segment of the class began with volunteers learning greetings, everyday words and phrases that they would hear on the streets, in taxis, at the placements. Volunteers were taught pronouns and verbs within these contexts and were then tested using the games of hopscotch and twister. The Culture segment of the class involved teaching volunteers about Jamaican fruits and they were then given samples of the various fruits. Volunteers enjoyed the entire class and felt more confident with their Patois speaking skills and knowledge of the fruits.



Volunteers listen intently as Patrina facilitates Patois and Culture class

APPRECIATION BANQUET

The Projects Abroad Jamaica evening of Elegance and Appreciation held on May 16, 2013 was wonderful. All partners of Projects Abroad Jamaica, host families, placements and volunteers were specially honoured and acknowledged for their hard work, support and dedication to Projects Abroad. We were graced with the presence of Government and Private Sector Officials who applauded the partners and particularly the volunteers for their services. The evenings programme began with most beautiful welcome done by Miss Collette Kerr, the Project Officer for Teaching and Medicine Project. The Custos Rotulorum of Manchester, Honourable Sally Porteous and Councilor Dalton Brown, representing the Mayor gave greetings. Very vibrant and fitting background music and musical items by renowned violinist Mark Stephenson, Trumpeter Phillip Washington and Pianist Jermaine Johnson complemented the proceedings. All volunteers, host families and placements received presentations, however, Outstanding Placement Awards were given to the Percy Junior Hospital for the Medicine Project, Bethabara Primary and Junior High School for the Teaching Project, Maroon Community Project for Culture and Community Project and the Child Development Agency for the Care Project. It was an extraordinary evening of appreciation. All partners and guests enjoyed the evening.



**Volunteers pose after the
Appreciation banquet**

CHILD'S MONTH ACTIVITY



**Volunteer traces participant's body for
self esteem activity**

The Southern Regional Health Authority has worked with many teens who suffer from depression. There has been an increase in the number of children who report experiencing symptoms of depression. While it is the intention of the authority to provide help for each one on a continuous basis, this is not always possible due to limited human and financial resources. There is a need for more motivation and personal development activities for this population. This is why Projects Abroad Jamaica organized a Depression and Substance Abuse Conference to help these teens and provide support. The goals of the

will help teens to learn and implement effective coping strategies to avoid substance abuse, understand themselves better and develop healthy self-esteem, identify their career goals and interests and develop a support group among themselves for those living with depression and who abuse substances.. The Conference was impactful and meaningful.

DIRTY DAY

Projects Abroad volunteers and staff worked for many hours on Labour Day at the Percy Junior Hospital on May 23, 2013 to repaint the exterior walls, columns and walkways. The project was part of a larger Labour Day project being executed with the support of several other Non-Government organizations and corporate companies. It was a very productive and worthwhile day.



**Volunteers paint a section of Percy
Junior Hospital**

REGGAE DANCE CLASS

Reggae Dance Class was held on May 28, 2013. Volunteers learnt the latest dance moves to music by Kronics, Conscience, Busy Signal and Idonia. The songs included “Forward”, “Nah Fallah no Baddy,” “Bully” and “Run Road.” They were so excited about the class that at the end they prompted the teacher to continue and quickly recorded the names of the artists and songs they danced to.



Volunteers follow the lead of the dance instructor

MONTEGO BAY SOCIAL EVENTS

PATOIS AND CULTURE CLASS - MAY 7, 2013

The class consisted of an interactive presentation about the history of patois, differences between spelling and pronunciation in English and patois. Volunteers were also taught some basic words that they may hear every day. A summary was also given about how Jamaicans speak using their body, tone and pronunciations of words to convey different feelings or intentions. Phrases that convey excitement, rudeness and sadness were also taught. Volunteers got the opportunity to practice pronouncing words in patois relating to home and personal actions. The second segment of the class consisted of volunteers sampling two Jamaican fruits they have never eaten before - jackfruit and plums. They enjoyed this experience.

MONTEGO BAY REGGAE DANCE CLASS

Reggae dance class was held on May 14, 2013. Seven volunteers were present for this class. This hour long class took the volunteers through a series of, at first seemingly strange movements, creative and fun dance moves. As the class progressed with the instructor explaining the very expressive nature of dance and music in the Jamaican culture the volunteers showed more enthusiasm in mastering each dance move. There was lots of laughter and many versions to each dance move demonstrated. At the end of the class however, volunteers were able to do at least two dance moves that were demonstrated.

DIRTY DAY AT THE WEST HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

Dirty day was held at the West Haven Children’s Home on May 24, 2013. The main task to be completed was helping to do laundry. This home cares for over eighty children with special needs. As such the volume of clothes and bed linen is very overwhelming for the three staff members in the laundry room. The first task was to fold the clothes that were already dry. Later the team moved to interact with the children in the physiotherapy room, helped in the lunch room and fed the younger children. It was a fulfilling day and the laundry staff was very grateful to the team for the time we volunteered.



Montego Bay Volunteers participate in the dirty day activity

WHAT IS ON THE CALENDAR

Projects Abroad Events

June 11, 2013 – Karaoke Sing Off

June 18, 2013 - Patois and Culture Class

June 21, 2013 – Dirty Day

June 25, 2013 – Reggae Dance Class

Country Events

The Jamaica Collections-Where Style Comes Alive!

Sat Jun 01 2013 at 06:00 pm Jamaica Performing Arts Center

Mickey Dread Reggae Festival

Sat Jun 08 2013 at 10:00am Port Antonio

Save the date!
Mark your calendar

| June 2013 | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACTS



Facebook - Offers the unique opportunity to know what is happening in Jamaica and with our volunteers during any day. Our Facebook page is full of photos, daily/ weekly updates, our calendar of monthly events and comments from our adventurous volunteers. Here is our link, don't forget to check us out... <http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.jamaica/> join the official group.



Mytripblog- There is no time like the present to start blogging, and so in order to keep you connected to our many adventures and volunteer stories we have been blogging just for you. Check out Jamaica here... <http://www.mytripblog.org/pg/groups/266/jamaica/>



Twitter- Get real time updates on what is happening in destination Jamaica right now. Follow us on twitter we are sure you will love our tweets; https://twitter.com/Proj_AbroadJM

PROJECTS ABROAD JAMAICA CONTACT DETAILS

Projects Abroad Jamaica
Suite # 9 Sun Village Plaza
6 North Race Course Road
Mandeville P.O.
Manchester, Jamaica

Website: www.projects-abroad.net

Facebook group: Projects Abroad Jamaica

Blogsite: <http://blog.projects-abroad.net/mytriblog.org>. If you would like to contribute an article to this newsletter please email it to patrinamorrison@projects-abroad.org by the 23rd of the month so they can be vetted and included.