

United Mission of Goodwill (USA) helps Tivoli Students with Free Medical Checks

The USA based United Mission of Goodwill (UMG) gave over 150 students at the Tivoli Gardens High School a chance at a healthier life by providing free medical and dental checks at the school recently. The team of volunteers, many of whom are Jamaicans living in the USA, have joined the Lorna Rawle led medical mission to provide quality health care for the vulnerable in Jamaica.

A past student of Tivoli Gardens Comprehensive, Lorna Rawle, is committed to supporting the growth and development of her alma mater and is the driver of the project to provide continued health services for the Tivoli Gardens High School. In collaboration with the Jeanette Grant Woodham Education Foundation (JGWEF), the team of volunteers, including surgeons, medical doctors, dentists and nurses, were in the island to provide medical services at the Community Health and Wellness Day organized for the Tivoli community.

Health checks, including, blood pressure, ECG and blood 'sugar' were provided for grateful residents who were out in numbers from very early. But health screening was just one area of assistance provided during the Health and Wellness Day. The UMG team facilitated the full renovation of the school's sick bay making it far more comfortable for students and teachers to recuperate at the sickbay. Nurse Gunther, the school's full time Nurse, gushed with pride as she collected state of the art equipment and toured the newly painted sickbay outfitted with privacy screens, patient beds, mattresses, fresh linen and enough medical supplies for the school term.

In the meantime, the Registrar General's Department received over 60 applications while several community residents accessed benefits from PATH and the National Health Fund (NHF).



A student is fascinated by the continuous temperature trend monitoring strip used to measure the core-adjusted temperature of each student. The students received free medical checks during the Community Health and Wellness Day held at the Tivoli Gardens High School



Mrs Lorna Rawle (centre) and members of her team along with Mrs Matthis (right), Vice Principal of Tivoli Gardens High School

Residents welcomed the presentation from the Ministry of Health on the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease and the strategies to prevent transmission of the disease. Nurse Gunther engaged many of the community women with a breast cancer awareness presentation and taught them how to perform life-saving breast self-examination techniques. She also educated residents about water borne diseases and how to prevent suffering a Stroke.

Principal of the TGHS, Mr Aldrick Durrant, was especially grateful to both the UMG and JGWEF for their generosity and continued support for the school. "The school has implemented a programme to provide school medicals for students during the summer break but there are many others who are yet to complete medicals. Past student, Dr Scott, has been providing these services free of cost. So this Community Health and Wellness Day is another means by which students have been assisted to complete their medicals in order to be fit and proper to receive the education offered to them; for this we are immensely grateful," he said.

A pleased Kiddo Smith, Chairman of

JGWEF, described the partnership with the UMG as a very successful one. "This Community Health and Wellness Day is just one of the many ways by which we intend to support the TGHS. Already we have provided medical equipment, including a wheelchair and medical supplies, as well as over 20 bursaries and grants for students across all five form levels. As a Foundation, we intend to continue to support both students and administration in honour of the legacy of Mrs Jeanette Grant Woodham who gave over 27 years of service to the TGHS," he said. "In 2016 we will ramp up our fundraising efforts so that we can impact many more students at the school," he added.

Mrs Woodham, who was on hand to share in the day's activities, was very pleased and delighted at the response to the Health and Wellness Day. She applauded the organizers and sponsors for making it a success. Carimed Limited provided gift packages for residents.

JGWEF, formed in 2014, is a registered non-profit established to support the TGHS and to create learning success stories one student at a time.



Mrs Jeanette Grant Woodham (left) is warmly received by her former students Mrs Shirley Morgan (centre), Principal of Charles Chinloy Basic School and Chairman of the JGWEF, Mr Kiddo Smith.



Nurse Gunther (right) along with TGHS students are delighted to receive medical supplies from the United Mission of Goodwill during the Community Health and Wellness Day held at Tivoli Gardens High School recently.

Scenes from the Community Health and Wellness Day



