

Humanitarian Mission to Jamaica

Reflections - by Ingrid Love, Esq.

The Humanitarian Mission to Jamaica was a tremendous success from my perspective. I was both awestruck and amazed at how little I knew about some of the reality and desolation some segments of the Jamaican society endure on a daily basis. I knew that like many places in the world people have various needs and wants that are not being met, but having witnessed firsthand what it is like to exist in disparaging conditions on a daily basis, changed my outlook entirely.



My first day on the mission during our visit to Palm Sunday Mass at Father HoLung's church provided a glimpse of what we would later experience in the upcoming days. At this service, I observed the dedicated Brothers tending to the needs of severely handicapped children, demonstrating genuine care and kindness. Later on during the week, we had the privilege to visit a few of the homes where these children were housed, and it was evident that the caring and nurturing that I observed during the Mass that first day was a part of what these dedicated Brothers do on a daily basis.

Another rather gratifying project was working with the Good Samaritan Inn in their ongoing community development initiative. Unlike the prior group of children and adults with physical and mental disabilities, this group was comprised of individuals who were simply in need of basic life essentials such as food, sundries, medicine, and medical attention. As much as we were able to provide

for this group of people, I felt a little despondent at the end of this project because it became apparent that the needs were so great, that in spite of the effort of so many people, there remained a large void that needs to be filled.

Some of the lightest moments for me were the times we spent visiting the Basic Schools in Mona and Red Hills. It was uplifting to see the hope in these young eyes having experienced so much despair in some of our prior visits and projects. We were able to spend time reading and sharing with these young minds. Both these school visits as well as other endeavors were



done in conjunction with other Kiwanis clubs in Jamaica. I was rather impressed with the tremendously good work the Kiwanis Clubs in Jamaica are doing and the impact they are having in their various communities. It was wonderful to partner with the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida (JNAF), such a capable and dynamic team of professionals, who rendered their services with the utmost commitment and grace.



Being a part of this mission has helped shaped my new attitude on giving and providing support to those in need. I would reiterate that I was especially inspired by and have great admiration for the commitment and sincerity demonstrated by the countless volunteers who give of themselves daily to improve the lives of others. I feel personally empowered by their examples.

One big lesson I will take from my experience in this mission is to count my blessings and not take what I have for granted. I know that as long as I have the capacity to do so, I will spend the rest of my life in whatever small way I can, helping those who are less fortunate and thanking God for all his blessings.

For more information about this great project, visit the Kiwanis Club of Kendall-South Dade's website at <http://www.kiwaniskend-allsd.com> or send an email to kiwanisofkend-allssouthdade@yahoo.com.

Service Hours	No. of Kiwanians Involved	No. of Non Kiwanians Involved	No. of Persons Benefitted	Money Spent
1,037	245	221	2,860	\$103,628

Mission Team

Kiwanis Club of Kendall/South Dade

Beverlin Allen (also member of JNAF)
 Dawn Campbell • Wilton Gray
 Ingrid Love, Esq. • Diana Morrell
 President Caroline Raffington
 Keith Williams, DDS

Friends of Kiwanis

Jodiann Gooden • Marian Lynch • Glendine Martin • Marcia Savariau

Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida

AnnMarie Allen • Amy Anderson • Tenecia Deans, MD. • Lornette Patrick • Marjorie Scott