

Photos By Michael Boucher



2017 Medical Mission Team

Greetings From the President

As we begin this year, I am extremely appreciative of all that we have accomplished together during 2017 and look forward to an excellent 2018. We have a lot to celebrate as we mark our 8th year of AOJAH's launch. Some of our achievements that show our growth include:

- Our continued local community work and scholarships with the underserved/homeless population in skid row
- Our enhanced Annual Medical, Eye & Education Mission to Jamaica which added glaucoma surgery
- Donation of life saving equipment to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital.
- Our continued support of young people through our scholarship programs in Jamaica.
- Our enhanced fundraising efforts throughout the year and at annual events.
- Our continued commitment to diversity and inclusion in the organization.

All these indicate a sign of commitment and engagement. I am looking forward to an exciting 2018. Finally, I would also like to share our concern for all those impacted by the fires and floods and wish them some stability and peace. I wish all of you and your families a pleasurable fulfilling year!

~ Joan M. Crawford -McDonald

Joan Crawford



Eye Team At Work

2017 Activities

April 9th - Annual Brunch at the MGM banquet Hall in Glendale

This year's "Top That Hat" themed brunch was keeping with AOJAH's fun filled hat contest and parade. Family style brunch was scrumptious. Entertainment by Simply Rose & DJ Mackie wowed the audience.

May 22nd - Annual Golf Tournament at Braemar Country club



June 11th to 16th - Annual Medical, Eye and Education mission in Jamaica

89 Volunteers participated in a very successful mission. Week started with a Medical seminar. During the week we conducted 8 clinics seeing 1,811 patients and provided a year supply of medication to those with chronic diseases.

Surgeries performed included 50 cataracts and 19 glaucoma surgeries as well as other general & GYN laparoscopic surgeries.

The education team visited 6 basic schools as well as elementary age students from St Ann's Bay Primary School's Children of the Village Program, providing schools supplies to 312 children.

We also visited the HEART Trust College of Hospitality granting 9 scholarships (US \$4,200).

October 14th - Annual Health Fair at the Fred Jordon Mission

Over 50 volunteers participated in providing blood pressure screenings, flu shots, medical screening, eye exams, dispensing of glasses and dental screenings. The underserved were also provided hygiene packs which included socks, soap, wet wipes, lotion, toothpaste & toothbrush. They were also provided a hot Jamaican lunch.

November 4th - Annual Fundraising Gala at the Universal Sheraton

Approximately 300 came out to enjoy an "Evening in Paris" themed event. The silent and live auction included many enticing items. The "Imagine, Believe, Achieve" themed video depicted and celebrated the enormous accomplishments of AOJAH, its members and volunteers. Our well-deserved honoree, Dr. Gregory Saccone was acknowledged for his unwavering commitment and dedication. The entertainment provided by Frankie Fontaine band and DeeJay Sherwin Ruste kept folks on the floor until the wee hours of the morning.

December 20th - Annual Holiday Luncheon at Scharp's Oasis House in South Central

Approximately 150 people were served a meal of chicken, ham, macaroni cheese, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roles and a variety of cakes to celebrate the holidays. They were also provided with hygiene packs and groceries to go. It was a fun afternoon supported by AOJAH volunteers and Kaiser WLA administrative support team. Attendees joined AOJAH VP of community in Christmas carols and all children left with a toy. Thanks to AOJAH members who donated toys for this event.



Dr. Hess Educates on EPOCH Machine



Equipment Needed

Last June we purchased a point of care machine for the neonatal intensive care unit at St Ann's Bay hospital and thus made a huge impact on the care of sick babies. We are continuing to try to raise funds to purchase equipment to improve care in the hospital as well as on the medical mission. This year we hope to raise enough to purchase a laser machine to be able to increase the number of glaucoma surgeries.

Elections

Are you interested in becoming a Board Member? 2018 is the year for election! Positions up for election are – President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The position requirement will be sent to all current members via email.



Health Fair at Fred Jordan Mission

December 23, 2017

Dear members of the Alliance of Jamaican
and American Humanitarians California, U.S.A,

Wow another year has come to an end and as we embark on the season of celebration it gives me great pleasure to extend my best wishes and love to your organization. It has been a long year filled with triumphs, tragedies and transformations in our lives. However we have to be thankful as we still possess something very special which is life. Furthermore I have to say thank you for remolding my way of living for the past four years and inevitable through your efforts everything about my year, Christmas, school life and my overall life in general has blossomed into a beautiful flower of success and joy. I hope that this year the good greatly overshadowed the bad and you all were able to see the light in every situation. I ask that this Christmas will be bursting from the seams with love, that you will simply enjoy the season with your families, friends and not to mention to dive into some awesome food. Also for the New Year I wish for you one adorned with new opportunities, experiences, and positivity. I wish you all a festive Christmas and a spectacular new year.

Yours sincerely,
Olanzo Lamey.

Jamaica HS Scholarships

Olanza Lamey completed 5 years and is continuing to advance level (6th form). He is always so grateful and take the time to say thanks.



Olanza Lamey



Heart Program



Children of the Village

2017 Education Mission

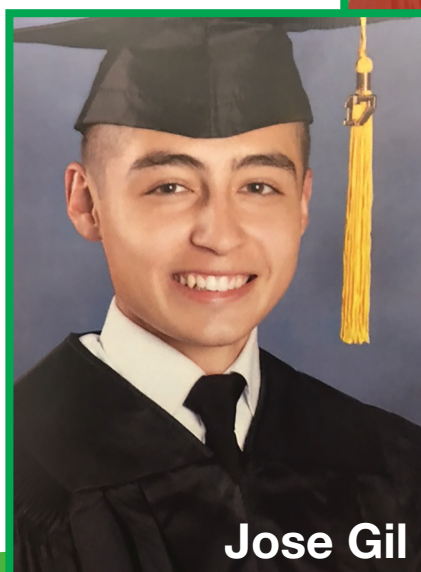
Visited 6 basic schools providing supplies to 312 children. Also visited St. Ann's Bay Primary School Children of the Village Program. Granted 9 scholarships to students in the Heart Trust College of Hospitality.



**Seresha
Chandler**

Local HS Scholarships

Jose Gil and Seresha Chandler our local High School scholarship recipients for the last four years graduated in June 2017. We are working with the Los Angeles School District to identify candidates this year. If you are interested in being part of the interview panel, please let Rosemary Wilson VP for Community know.



Jose Gil



AOJAH

**8549 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1004
Beverly Hills, CA 90211**

2018 Upcoming Events

Annual fundraising brunch and food drive
@ MGM Banquet Hall, Glendale, California
- **Sunday, April 15th**
Annual fundraising golf tournament
- **Monday, May 21st**
Annual Medical/eye/education mission to Jamaica
- **Week of June 10th**
Annual Fundraising Gala
- **November 2018 TBA**

How to Contact a Board Member

Joan Crawford - joanc@aojah.org
Maxwell Sinclair -
Hermin Hussen - herminh@aojah.org / (310) 227-0212
Gloria Blackburn -
Rosemary Wilson -
Patricia Perry -
Joan Henry - joanmhenry@verizon.net

A Little Bit of Jamaica

Coconut drops:

2 cups diced coconut
1 tsp. powdered or 1 tbsp. grated ginger
1 tsp vanilla
1 lb. brown sugar
1 pinch salt
½ to ¾ cup water

Combine all ingredients, boil until very sticky, beat a little and drop by spoonful onto grease tin sheet, let cool.

Yields 12

★ Dues

Reminder that your annual dues help us to keep the organization going and do all the wonderful work. Please pay dues when you receive notification from the treasurer.



Get involved! Recruit more members! Donate!