

# Jamrock Volunteer Impact



ProjectsAbroad

# Jamaica

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### **Message from the Team**

It's summer time!! Double the arrivals, double the impact, double the activities and double the fun!! June means that we welcome not only regular volunteers but also those who come to volunteer on the Two Weeks Special programme. The staff and volunteers of Projects Abroad Jamaica continued to demonstrate the true meaning of volunteerism through all its activities and services during the month of June.

Thirty Eight (38) volunteers chose destination Jamaica as the place to volunteer this month. Of that number nineteen (18) were regular volunteers and twenty (20) were two weeks special volunteers. Eight (8) volunteers joined the Medicine Project; seven (7) joined the Care Project, one (1) for the Disaster Management Project, one (1) for the Farming Project and one (1) volunteer on the Community Literacy Project. For the Two Weeks Special volunteers six (6) came on the Care Project in early June and the remaining fourteen (14) came to work on the Medicine and Building Projects.

Every month we anticipate new volunteers who will either keep the flag of Projects Abroad Jamaica flying high or raise the standard even higher. The month of June was no exception, as we felt the impact of our volunteers through the work they have done. Lives were touched, houses were improved, disasters were prevented, children received hope, parents were given counselling, patients were given medical treatment, public health inspections were done and even crops were reaped. This sounds like a lot but this represents only a small fraction of the work that our volunteers are involved in on a monthly basis.

Even though we still have much to do, the increase in our numbers provides hope that in a short while our reach will be even greater. Many are drawn to our country because of the diversity in our culture and people but aside from that they recognize that making a meaningful impact in Jamaica far outweighs any vacation.

As you read through the pages of our monthly newsletter we invite you to embrace the passion and capture the true essence of volunteering as we have done here at Projects Abroad Jamaica. Do enjoy.

Regards,

Team Jamaica

(Bridgette Barrett - Country Director, Cherricha Jacobs - Assistant Country Director& Desk Officer, Claudeen Stewart - Acting Information Manager & Project Officer ( Journalism), Sanikia Powell-Morgan - Volunteer Liaison Officer, Collette Kerr Project Officer (Teaching& Medicine), Patrina Thomas-Morrison - Project Officer (Care), Stacy-Ann Barrett - Project Officer (Culture & Community), Shaneil Lawson - Volunteer Coordinator, Montego Bay)

## Volunteer Story – Hannah Mather-Coe

**Hannah Mather-Coe gains valuable experience for her career in journalism while volunteering in Jamaica.**

19-year-old Hannah Mather-Coe, from Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, has always had a passion for writing and talking to people; a passion that led to her desire to pursue a career in journalism. After taking a gap year after school and searching for opportunities to gain experience in journalism before starting university, Hannah discovered Projects Abroad and their various journalism projects. Immediately Jamaica jumped out at her, with an opportunity to volunteer at the Journalism Project and to see more of the island, Hannah decided to make her dream



**Hannah Mather-Coe stands by the master control at her placement**

a reality. “I had heard and seen so much about the island, I always wanted to visit Jamaica but not for a short

period. My aunt has visited the island a few years ago and I thought that her pictures were just amazing!”

Hannah spent her 3 month’s volunteering adventure at The Media Centre at Northern Caribbean University. “The experience has been great and absolutely wonderful; and I have learnt about a lot of different journalistic styles.” She was engaged in several activities ranging from editing, writing and putting playlists together for television programming. Recently, she was given a feature about Franklyn Roosevelt to edit, which was aired on the radio.

“This experience has taught me a lot and I now feel comfortable going to university because I will be able to transfer some of the skills I have been taught while volunteering at the NCU Media Centre.”

“Projects Abroad gives you the chance, to not only volunteer and make an impact, but also to learn different things and sharpen one’s skills. It is an amazing experience and there are not many organizations which offer such a wide range of projects. I got the opportunity to meet other volunteers from other countries, learn about different cultures and develop an open mind.”

We hope great stories like these inspire others to help Projects Abroad continue to make a difference, and by doing so, learn something themselves along the way.



## Volunteer Story – Jessica Sturman

### Rescue Dog Named After Jessica While Volunteering At the Montego Bay Animal Haven



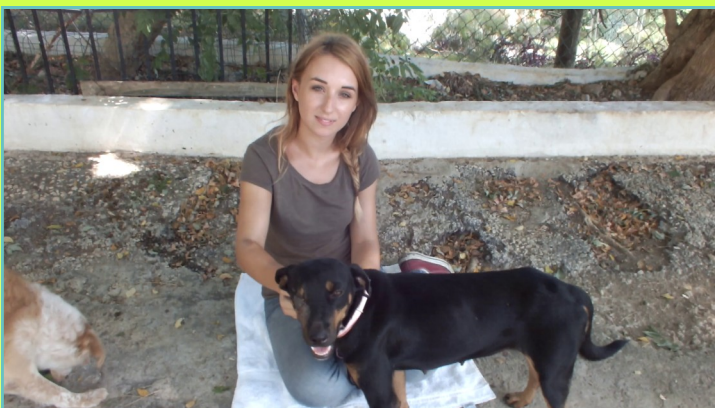
**Jessica Sturman plays with two of the dogs at her placement– Montego Bay Animal Haven**

Jessica Sturman is 21 years old and hails from Sheffield in the UK. Having travelled to Jamaica to volunteer on the Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care project the lessons she has learnt are invaluable. “I chose Jamaica mainly because the project incorporated veterinary medicine as well as animal care”. Jamaica is also a very beautiful country; “you certainly want to come back once you’ve been here”. She wants to become a veterinary technician in the near future. She arrived in Jamaica at the beginning of May to spend a month volunteering at the Montego Bay Animal Haven.

The Montego Bay Animal Haven is a non-profit organization which houses animals mostly dogs that have been rescued from the streets or poor communities. These animals were either abused or ill-treated and left to starve and die. The Haven usually receives calls about these animals or during street feeding activities they are found and rescued. There are over 40 dogs at the placement, each having its own name and Jessica became quite familiar with each and learned their names very quickly. “I have been involved in feeding the animals, cleaning them and their kennels and helping with their veterinary care. We also have feeding stations and we feed the strays on the street on specific days of the week and if there are animals to be rescued we go out and rescue them”.

“The experience has been brilliant, I’ve only been here for a month but I could definitely stay in Jamaica for a lot longer”. “The volunteers are tremendous, my host family is just awesome and they make me feel very welcome here at my placement, and they appreciate the help that I have offered”. One of her most memorable experiences involved rescuing a dog which had been tied to a tree and left to die. She was named after the volunteer and has since been called “Jess”. “We got a call from someone in the community who found her; she had been absolutely dehydrated and starving. Her right eye had been knocked out and it was really infected and full of maggots. When we approached her she was very friendly, so we cut her from the rope and took her straight to the vet and after a couple of weeks she is doing much better.”

“If you genuinely have a heart for animals and care about their welfare then Animal Haven is definitely the place for you to come and volunteer on the Animal Care project offered by Projects Abroad Jamaica”.



**Rescue dog named after Jessica Sturman, affectionately called “Jess”**



**Ines Ruebig plays with two children at her placement**

## Care Project Update

Whether you speak German, Hindi, Swahili, Italian or French; love means the same in any language. The volunteers have demonstrated this passion and love not only for the project but towards the children they worked with during the month of June. Seven (7) volunteers joined the care project and the commitment and dedication they have shown at their placements was evident in the responses that were given by the supervisors and partners of the respective placements. The major project which was undertaken by the Care project is the Breakfast

Programme which was hosted at the Bethabara Primary and Junior High.

This initiative was started by a past volunteer, Bettina Velhoff who volunteered with Projects Abroad Jamaica in 2012. She donated money towards the continuation of the project and

in June, several children were given a sumptuous breakfast courtesy of Bettina's generosity.

The Care Project also welcomed its first batch of Two Weeks Special volunteers for 2013. Six (6) volunteers travelled from Italy, Canada and Ireland to host a summer camp at the Rose Hill Primary School in Manchester. They worked with children ages 7-15 and were involved in several educational activities as well as arts and crafts. At the end of the two weeks a talent show and concert was hosted and the children were given an opportunity to showcase their talent and skills. In addition to working with the children, the volunteers had an opportunity to experience aspects of the Jamaican culture through the social activities that were planned for them. These were held in the evenings when they returned from their placement. They learnt the popular Jamaican songs and dances, Jamaican patois and culture which included getting to know more about the fruits and pastries. On the weekend they journeyed to the north and west coast of the island and saw Ocho Rios in St. Ann and YS Falls in St. Elizabeth on Saturday and Sunday respectively.



**Marta Fanfani assists a child with her Art and Craft activity.**

## Medicine Project Update



**Medicine volunteers Gion Frankl and Nicole Hammann practice vital signs**

Eight (8) volunteers joined the Medicine and Health Care project and they were given an opportunity to work in the Type A and B medical facilities in Manchester. They have been working at the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Percy Junior Hospital and the Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre. The highlights for the month of June include the following: Gion Fraenkl had a very good field exposure in Environmental Health. He accompanied the Public Health Inspectors from the Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre (MCHC)

on various site inspections; he observed and assisted in water inspections at pumps and reservoirs, food safety inspections at restaurants, supermarkets and other public food places. Melissa Wright who also volunteered at the MCHC worked in the

lab and assisted with specimen testing and she did field testing in a community and at the Bank of Nova Scotia.



### **Sports Project Update**

Verena Slowiak worked very hard as a Physical Education teacher at the Bethabara Primary and Junior High School. Stephan Kleine too continued to keep the standard high on the Sports project at the Villa Road Primary and Junior High School in Mandeville. While teaching Physical Education classes to the students at the school, he coached the school's under-12 football team and they placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Manchester LIME League.

### **Teaching Project Update**

On the Teaching project, Rosene Simpson started some sessions under the Community Literacy Project and has since done diagnostic testing with her first batch of adult learners.

### **Journalism Project Update**

Learning the different skills in journalism has been the goal of Hannah Mather-Coe who has been volunteering at the NCU Media Centre. During the month of June she was given a feature to write about past US president Franklyn Roosevelt

## **Culture and Community Project Update**

### **Building Project**



**The foundation of Mr. Johnson's house.**

Projects Abroad Jamaica specializes in providing homes for the poor and needy. Mr Johnson was living in a poorly constructed house and was exposed to the elements of the weather. His situation was further compounded by the fact that he is asthmatic. Projects Abroad Jamaica immediately stepped in to improve the situation and meet the obvious need. The volunteers have been working tirelessly in order for Mr Johnson to move into his new home at the earliest time possible. Two volunteers joined the building project in June bringing the total number of volunteers on the project to four (4).

### **Maroon Community Project**

Although there were no new volunteers for the month of June, the volunteers who arrived since April continued to work in their respective fields and make a valuable impact. Two volunteers worked at the Accompong Primary and Junior in the computer lab and the remaining three volunteers did farming with their host fathers and other residents of the Maroon community. Pablo Calderon, a French volunteer planted a patch of cucumbers when he just started on the field and in the month of June he reaped cucumbers from what he had planted. This was a very exciting moment for Pablo and he even shared his produce with the staff at Projects Abroad Jamaica.



**Pablo Calderon preparing the field for planting.**

### **Disaster Management Project**

June marks the beginning of the hurricane season. Jamaica is prone to experiencing hurricanes because of its location in the Atlantic Ocean. The volunteers Anne Pedersen and Andrew McDonald have been working closely with the Disaster Preparedness Officers at the Black River Parish Council in St. Elizabeth to ensure that adequate preparations are made for this active hurricane season.

## Montego Bay Updates

### Montego Bay Care Project Update

For the month of June four (4) volunteers came to Montego Bay, St. James. Christiana Reinecke and Annika Hillebrand were placed at the Robins Nest Children's Home, Chloe Burger at Blossom Gardens Child Care Facility and Jessica Sturman worked at Montego Bay Animal Haven.



**Annika Hillebrand and the children at  
Robin's Nest**

Continued growth and development is still the focus of our volunteers as they set out to make an indelible mark on the lives of our children. Volunteers set out to assist in the best way possible at their placements by feeding the children, assisting with playground activities and reading to them. Due to a shortage of staff at most of the placements, volunteers sometimes find it difficult to give their undivided attention to each child. As a result, they were taught how to coordinate group activities which would include all the children. This proved to be stimulating and the volunteers were able to find other ways to help a child in need.

Chloe Burger who was at the Blossom Gardens Child Care Facility, expressed that there was a lot of work to be done at the placement. She decided to extend her daily work hours from 4-5 just so that she could offer more assistance at her placement. She also interacted with many of the children so that none would feel left out or abandoned.

The Montego Bay Animal Haven continues to reach out to animals that are in need of love and care. Volunteer Jessica Sturman was captivated by the animals upon arrival and she continued to show the undying love she has for animals in so far as she expressed to a friend back home that she wanted to adopt a puppy. Jessica turned up for work very early in order to travel with her supervisor to feed stray dogs, provide medical treatment and rescue animals if there is a need. She assisted the veterinarian with surgeries; she cleaned the dogs' kennel in the mornings, fed the animals and ensured that their well-being was maintained.



**Jessica Sturman changes the bandage on  
the dog's feet.**

The placement supervisor commended Jessica Sturman for the wonderful work she had done while volunteering at the Haven. She stated that more volunteers like Jessica are needed; hard working and dedicated to cause. She also said that Jessica is one of a kind and appreciates all that Jessica and Projects Abroad have done for the Haven since the partnership.



## Highlights

1. Medicine volunteers: Nicole Hammann, Nils Gerbig, Niclas Wiegler and Caroline Dencker were awarded certificates for attending the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Annual Academic Symposium under the theme; "Gynaecological Malignancies-A Modern Approach". Their attendance at the workshop which covered, "Ethics: The Care of the Terminally III Patient" conducted by Dr. Everton McIntosh (Senior Medical Officer at the hospital), afforded them Continuing Medical Education hours.
2. The Breakfast Programme continued in the month of June and the children of the Bethabara Primary and Junior High were given a sumptuous meal to start their morning. This activity was made possible by donations of past volunteer Bettina Veldhoff.
3. Pablo Calderon, Maroon community volunteer harvested cucumbers in June which he planted when he started working on the farming project.
4. Two Weeks Special volunteers worked in Rose Hill Primary with 115 children for two weeks. It was the first time that volunteers from Projects Abroad Jamaica ever worked there.

## Donations

1. Haylee Cody (Care Project) donated the following items to her placement (New Hope Children's Home) 4 colouring books, 2 '4pks' toothbrushes, 1 bag of crayons, 2 puzzles, 2 notebook minis, 2 little cars.
2. Rosene Simpson (Community Literacy Project) donated the following items to her placement: 5 'A2' posters (literacy & numeracy, world map), 1 Christian aid resource pack, 2 folders of phonics flash cards, 1 folder of artist resource-cards
3. Two Weeks Special volunteers Marta Fanfani, Agnese Caleffi and Giovanni Fanfani donated items of clothing to the children at the Rose Hill Primary School.
4. Projects abroad Jamaica donated \$30,000 JMD each to the Child Development Agency as well as the Manchester Comprehensive Health Clinic.

## Projects Abroad Book of Records

Congrats to Rosene Simpson the first volunteer on the Community Literacy Project in New Green

## Social Events

### Karaoke Sing-Off Competition

This was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 and the volunteers really did not want the music to stop. They sang their hearts out in solos and in groups. Not even staff members could escape the promptings of the DJ; she called on the team of Projects Abroad Jamaica to showcase their talent at various times of the evening. Volunteers like Karen Thompson and Andrew McDonald participated in most of the categories. Andrew sang a solo of “I’m too sexy”. The internationals as they called themselves gave the following rendition, “I’m a Barbie Girl”. At the end prizes were awarded to the winner of each category and volunteers were treated to lovely refreshment.

### Patois and Culture Class

The Jamaican patois is spoken just about everywhere in Jamaica in different forms. Every month the volunteers are introduced to the language through various teaching methods. On Tuesday, June 18, 2013 the



**Nicole Hammann participates in the Patois and Culture class activity.**

volunteers were given a lesson in Jamaican patois. They learnt Jamaican greetings, the body parts in patois and basic grammar. After each lesson there was a learning activity in the form of a game. Volunteers were asked to go in pairs and each had to do a one minute skit of greeting and responding to one another in patois. The next game was called “Pin on the Body Part” where the body parts were attached to a cartridge paper and the volunteers were to pin on the patois name of the body part within a specific time. The final game was called “Go Fishing” where they had to create patois sentences from whatever they fished from a bucket. The volunteers were taught a Jamaica folk song “Long Time Gal”

### Dirty Day



**Volunteers help to clean drains in Brighton  
St Elizabeth**

This Dirty Day was very special as it was a volunteer, Anne Pedersen who was working on the Disaster Management Project at the St. Elizabeth Parish Council who suggested that we clean the drains in the community as a precautionary measure for the hurricane season. On Friday June 21, 2013 we journeyed to St. Elizabeth to a little district called Brighton and we cleared a long stretch of drains which had been covered with bush and debris. The volunteers along with Projects Abroad staff worked tirelessly in the heat of the sun to get the job done. At the end of the activity the community members along with the Councillor for the division expressed their gratitude for the work that we had done.

### **Reggae Dance Class**

Dances are ever changing and as such we have to keep our volunteers up to date with the newest Jamaican moves and reggae songs which are on the charts. On Tuesday, June 25, 2013 the volunteers were introduced to yet another variety of energetic Jamaican Reggae and dancehall songs and the moves that accompany each song. Volunteers danced to songs like “No Hesitation” by Konshens, “Duh Road” by Movado and “Juk Suh” by Aidonia. The moves that go with these songs are “Rockitive”, “Cool and Deadly” and “Insane” to name a few.

### **Montego Bay Social Events**

#### **Patois and Culture Class**

Patois and Culture class was held at Doctor’s Cave beach. The lesson was an introduction of patois and how to pronounce words. The focus was on pleasantries and the ways in which Jamaicans greet and welcome people. Volunteers were asked to demonstrate and repeat the ways in which they had seen Jamaicans communicating with each other; they found this to be very entertaining. Volunteers also learnt how to have small conversations and were each given a statement and were told to respond in patois.

Afterwards, volunteers were shown how to make Rum Punch, a popular Jamaican beverage made with rum, sugar, syrup and water by one of the bartender at Doctor’s Cave.

### **Reggae Dance Class**

Reggae Dance Class was held on June 18, 2013 at the Projects Abroad office in Montego Bay. All four (4) volunteers were present and eager to learn some of our Jamaican dance moves. They were taken aback as the instructor took them through the warm up exercises and various Jamaican dance moves such as; Butterfly, Bogle, Shelly-Belly, Rum-Ram.

### **Dirty Day**



Dirty day was held on June 21, 2013 at Garland Hall Baptist Orphanage in Anchovy Montego Bay. The activities for the day included painting the wall which leads to the entrance as well as the stone wall where flowers were planted. Flowers were also planted along the walk way. \_Annika, Christina painted the stone wall and Jessica and the Projects Abroad staff painted the walk-way wall. Everyone helped to plant the flowers since it was a first for everyone except Christina. She gave a brief lesson on how to plough the soil and remove the flower from the pot and place it in the ground. The volunteers left feeling accomplished and the staff showed appreciation for the job that was done.

**Christina Reinecke arranges a few stones  
at the orphanage.**



# Mark these dates:

## Projects Abroad Jamaica

<b>July 9</b> <b>Quiz and</b> <b>Games</b> <b>Evening</b>		<b>July 16</b> <b>Patois &amp;</b> <b>Culture Class</b>	
	<b>July 19</b> <b>Dirty Day</b>		<b>July 23</b> <b>Reggae</b> <b>Dance Class</b>

## Country Events

<b>July 5-8</b> <b>Little Ochi Seafood</b> <b>Carnival</b>	
	<b>July 21- 27</b> <b>Reggae Sumfest</b>

## 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](https://twitter.com/Proj_AbroadJM)

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