

OCTOBER ISSUE

# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH



## **A message from the Club President:** *Continuing the spirit of action to bridge community needs.*

Welcome to the 4th issue of the 2024-25 Rotary Club of Montego Bay Newsletter!

Thank you to all Rotarians and aspiring Rotarians reading this issue. In the last 90 days we travelled across borderlines to bring relief to over eighty families in Black River who were struck by hurricane Beryl. We reimagined the waiting room of the Type Five Clinic maternity wing to boost psychological peace and safety of mothers by commissioning a peace mural with Jamaica artist Christopher Scott.

We launched the official President's project which scaled the entire month of September with learning opportunities bridging participation gaps affecting literacy rates, growing curiosity for learning through play, and empowering young minds to read, write and create.

We further united with fellow Rotary Clubs for an ambitious ocean cleanup, diving to restore our coastlines and ocean floors. Surpassing our goals, we raised over US\$600 toward the fight against polio and strengthened partnerships that will continue to enrich our club's mission and

In these last 90 days, we've been more than just busy—we've been activated.

But as we push forward, it's important to take moments of reflection. Pausing allows us to ensure that our actions align with our values and aspirations while also being mindful of our well-being. In October, we'll continue to elevate social dialogue with opportunities that promote economic development, and together, we'll keep advancing toward a future where service transforms lives.

Let's keep moving forward with purpose and heart, knowing that every step brings us closer to lasting change.



*Rotarian Nerissa*

### **In this issue you can expect:**

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PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE

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HIGHLIGHTS

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END POLIO  
NOW UPDATE

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OCTOBER  
PROJECT  
HIGHLIGHT

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HURRICANE TIPS

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AGENDA

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# RCMB Literacy Distribution Program

DISTRIBUTION DROP #1  
BUCKINGHAM INFANT AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Bridging participation gaps affecting literacy rates.

Inspired to nurture imagination and view learning as a journey fueled by play and curiosity, each phase of the distribution program created opportunities for children to engage in activity hubs. These hubs encouraged reading, problem-solving, and creativity, empowering young minds to express themselves through both words and ideas. Every tool, from the simplest pencil to more advanced materials, was carefully selected to spark curiosity and inspire a deeper desire to explore various topics.



Working with community volunteers to bridge the gaps.





### SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



President Nerissa solves activity with students



Knutsford Employee reads with student



Director Joan reads with student



Rotarian Prospect Candace solves puzzles with students





# READING AT MOUNT SALEM INFANT AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Knutsford Employee Kedon awards student with a gift



Knutsford Employee Jewel Robinson awards student with a gift



Rotarian Prospect Candace reads to students



PP Amber reads to students



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**



A warm welcome



Sharing a bit of Jamaica with the DG





**INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP INITIATIVE  
UNDERWATER BEACH CLEAN UP**

**SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**



**UNDERWATER  
CLEAN UP**



**Bridging awareness  
together**



# US\$ 600 RAISED IN SEPTEMBER

THE RCMB LITTLE FELLOWSHIP BEARS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO



# END POLIO NOW

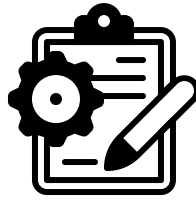
A heartfelt thank you to Rotarian Dominica for sharing her gift with us to make the timeless RCMB little bears that are in the fight against polio.

THANK  
YOU  
😊

# ...COMING UP

## OCTOBER PROJECT

Director Joan Johnson



### >>> CREATING SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITY IN A SKILLS BASED INDUSTRY

In mid-September, President Nerissa met with Sonia Thwaites, the owner of FTR Garments, to learn more about the lives of the women who work at the 46-year-old garment factory, or as Mrs. Thwaites refers to it, her "sweat shop." These women come from various rural communities, often supporting large families. Many have worked in the factory since their teenage years and are now in their fifties. Their dedication not only sustains their families but also contributes to the economic growth of their communities through their financial independence. They ask for little and, much like the machines they skillfully operate, work tirelessly to ensure their children and grandchildren receive a good education in the hope of creating better opportunities for them.

Entering the factory, one is met with the sight of a legion of hardworking women. Mrs. Thwaites acknowledges, "I will never be able to pay these women what their talent is truly worth. What they do is priceless, but I've tried my best to help them secure a good education for their children."

Recently, the factory has welcomed a promising 16-year-old girl named Alyssa, known as the "diamond in the rough." After school, she arrives at 3:30 pm to develop her sewing skills, which are quickly becoming an impressive talent. Alyssa's work ethic and eagerness to learn have made her invaluable, but balancing school and the long commute to work is taking a toll on her. Providing her with a sewing machine to use at home could be a sustainable solution, allowing her to continue honing her craft while

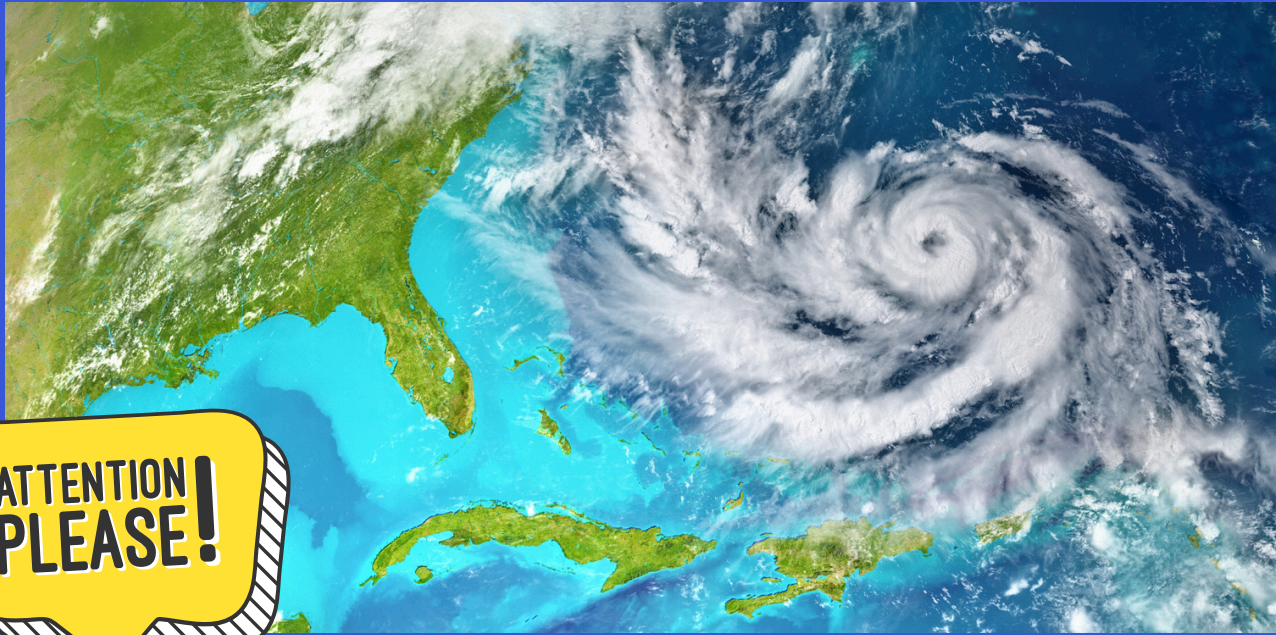


#### MORE TO COME ON HOW THE RCMB WILL BE APART OF THIS DEVELOPMENT TO HELP ALYSSA

This project promotes social and economic development by empowering rural women through financial independence and skill-building. It invests in the next generation, like Alyssa, by supporting her education and talent, fostering sustainable livelihoods, and driving long-term community growth.







## Tips for Hurricane Season: Stay Safe. Be Prepared

- Check thoroughly the roof of your house, hurricane shutters, hooks and latches and repair where necessary.
- Make sure you have emergency equipment in your home. These include water boots, raincoats, flashlights, batteries, portable radio, kerosene lamps and matches.
- Trim trees that hang over your house and other buildings for those that touch power lines call the Jamaica public service
- Be ready to evacuate if you live in low-lying or flood-prone areas. Decide early on evacuation route Avoid flooded water-ways i.e. fords, gullies, streams or rivers, either on foot or in vehicles.
- Ensure that all important documents are secured in plastic bags or waterproof containers.
- Turn off all electrical power, gas and water supplies in areas that are in immediate danger from flooding.
- Avoid areas with damaged roadways.
- Avoid where necessary areas prone to landslide & flooding.
- In case of extensive rainfall avoid going on the road except where absolutely necessary.
- Make sure your emergency kit is stocked and includes non-perishable food, cash, charging devices, a flashlight and batteries in case of power outages.
- Check in with friends, family and neighbors to see if older adults and people with disabilities need assistance.
- Don't forget the needs of your pets. Shelters do not take household pets, so remember to create a plan and have supplies available for your animals.
- Have a designated safe house or location to quickly evacuate if necessary.

**CHECK ON THESE EMERGENCY ITEMS: WATER, RAINCOATS, WATER BOOTS, FLASHLIGHTS AND BATTERIES, BATTERY-POWERED RADIO, HURRICANE LAMP, MATCHES, HURRICANE SHUTTERS, HOOKS AND LATCHES. KEEP A WRITTEN LIST OF IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES IN CASE OF BATTERY FAILURE IN POWER OUTAGES.**



## AGENDA



LOCATION: ZOOM  
**OCTOBER 1ST**  
STRATEGIC PLANNING &  
ROTARY ACTION PLAN  
AN ONLINE PRESENTATION  
PRESIDENT NERISSA PERSAUD  
12:30 pm to 2:00pm



LOCATION: ZOOM  
**OCTOBER 6TH**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS'  
MEETING  
2:00PM TO 3:00PM



LOCATION: ZOOM  
**OCTOBER 8TH**  
BUSINESS MEETING  
MEMBERS ONLY  
12:30pm to 2:00pm



LOCATION: ZOOM  
**OCTOBER 15TH**  
END POLIO NOW  
GUEST SPEAKER: DGN LINDSEY CANCINO  
12:30pm to 2:00pm



LOCATION: LUCCA RESTAURANT  
**OCTOBER 22ND**  
GENERAL MEETING  
12:30pm to 2:00pm



LOCATION: ZOOM  
**OCTOBER 29TH**  
SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING:  
LEADERS SHAPING THE  
FUTURE OF FINANCE  
GUEST SPEAKER: SHEREE MARTIN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL COMMERCE BANK JAMAICA  
12:30 pm to 2:00pm

## OCTOBER 2024 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY  
MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH

JANUARY  
VOCATIONAL  
SERVICE MONTH

AUGUST  
MEMBERSHIP &  
NEW CLUB  
DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY  
PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION

SEPTEMBER  
BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY

MARCH  
WATER,  
SANITATION AND  
HYGIENE

OCTOBER  
COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

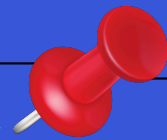
APRIL  
ENVIRONMENT

NOVEMBER  
ROTARY  
FOUNDATION

MAY  
YOUTH SERVICES

DECEMBER  
DISEASE  
PREVENTION &  
TREATMENT

JUNE  
ROTARY  
FELLOWSHIP



### October 2024

#### Community Economic Development Month

7-13 October — Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week  
24 October — World Polio Day  
30 October–2 November — Rotaract UN Days:  
Future Global Leaders in Action