



PRESS RELEASE

Celebrating Forty Years of Service - Enriching Communities, Healthcare and Education in Jamaica

New York, NY March 11, 2022 –The AFJ celebrates 40 years of working to support self-sufficiency in communities through funding programs in education, healthcare and economic development. Between 1982 and 2022, we have presented donor advised and discretionary grants of over US\$16M. In addition to support of the Sickie Cell Trust, Maxfield Park Children’s Home, RISE Life, here are a few highlights to mark our 40th Anniversary.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted Jamaica negatively, resulting in a rapid slowdown of the Jamaican economy and put thousands of Jamaicans at risk. The AFJ launched COVID-19 Vaccine Fund to accelerate the end of pandemic in Jamaica. The AFJ’s vaccine fund increased access to vaccine in underserved communities of Jamaica.

In the wake of Hurricane Dean in 2007, AFJ responded to the needs of Jamaican citizens with “A Thousand Roofs of Love” to support roof rebuilding and repairing of 1,000 homes. Many children and families lost homes and personal belongings due to significant flooding and storm surges from this Category 4 hurricane. The AFJ responded by providing materials to individuals who had damaged roofs.

AFJ’s partnership with Rose Town Foundation assists in creating opportunities for residents of Rose Town to improve the quality of their lives through active participation in development programs that enhance their built environment, socio-economic status and community health. Rose Town Library has been a safe learning space for children in the community.

The first diagnosed case of HIV in Jamaica was registered in the early 1980s. The AFJ executed outreach to combat AIDS in Jamaica.

“From its beginnings, 4 decades ago with a Gala in New York, the American Friends of Jamaica has been focused on its mission to support the people of Jamaica, growing its fundraising and increasing its assistance of local organizations with track records of impact. We are proud that every past US Ambassador to Jamaica has served on the Board and grateful to the thousands of Friends of Jamaica who have the passion and commitment to this vision that meaningful philanthropy builds healthier, resilient communities.” states AFJ President, Wendy Hart

About the AFJ

The AFJ is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit built on the principles of service and philanthropy. For 40 years, the organization has been rendering assistance in the areas of Education, Healthcare, and Economic Development. The AFJ Grant Cycle begins at the end of each year and grants are disbursed in April of the following year. For information on how to purchase tickets or become a sponsor to support our mission for Jamaica, email info@theafj.org or visit www.theafj.org.