



PRESS RELEASE

2023 Hummingbird Gala: Nearly US\$1M Raised

New York, NY, (November 10, 2023) – The American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ) hosted the 2023 Hummingbird Gala on Friday, October 27th at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Honorees Danny Wegman, Chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc., and his wife, Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman, Social Entrepreneur received International Humanitarian Awards, Sherrese Clarke Soares, Founder of HarbourView Equity Partners, received the Blue Mountain Award and Janice Hart of Yale New Haven Hospital received the Lignum Vitae Award.

The night commenced with a cocktail reception that included a display of luxury silent auction items, followed by a three-course meal and the awards program. Master of Ceremonies, actor and singer Leon Robinson “Leon” hosted the program, a performance by Grammy-nominated artist Maxi Priest, and music selection by Max Glazer. The night was thrilling, brimming with energy, where guests enjoyed from the red carpet to an unforgettable evening of entertainment and elegance.

The Hummingbird Gala has developed to become a consistent and desired event focused on fundraising for the annual AFJ discretionary grants program. A recap of the past year’s work was showcased during the program. Proceeds from the auction collection and the pledge drive which spotlighted specific programs all contributed to the overall fundraising goal. This year, a paddle raise was introduced during the pledge drive that amplified the excitement.

The event raised nearly US\$1M (over JA\$140 million). The AFJ is grateful for our sponsors- Wegmans Food Markets Inc., Sands Family Foundation, JetBlue, GraceKennedy Ltd., Cari-Med Group Ltd., Steuart Foundation, Hegemon Capital, Colgate-Palmolive Co., Couples Resort, Christel House International, Panton Equity Partners, Exact Capital, FirstRock Group, Quality Auto Mall and Island Grill, media partners and the generosity of all those who attended the Gala who are committed to our philanthropic work in Jamaica.

The next AFJ Gala (Jamaica Charity Gala) will be held on Saturday, May 4th at Loews Coral Gables, Miami, FL.

About the AFJ

The AFJ is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit built on the principles of service and philanthropy. For over 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 email info@theafj.org or visit www.theafj.org.