



## PRESS RELEASE

June 9, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### US\$20,000 Equipment Donation to Boost Paediatric Care at Black River Hospital

A donation of critical medical equipment valued at approximately US\$20,000 is set to improve care for newborns and young children at Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth, while supporting the facility's ongoing recovery efforts, following Hurricane Melissa.

The donation, facilitated through a partnership involving the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North, Rotary International and United Way Worldwide, includes an infant warmer, an infant incubator, two infusion pumps and a phototherapy lamp.

President of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North, Pierpont Wilson, said the donation was made after learning of the impact Hurricane Melissa had on the hospital.

"These are not merely pieces of equipment, they represent hope for newborns, they represent support for parents during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, they represent improved care, better health outcomes, and a stronger healthcare system for the people of St. Elizabeth and the surrounding communities" Mr. Wilson said.

Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority, Michael Bent, welcomed the partnership and noted that the donation comes at a critical time as the hospital continues its recovery and rebuilding efforts.

"Having gone through a Category 5 hurricane in the direct path of the hurricane, this partnership was something that we welcomed. This partnership not only helps to improve the service, but it also helps to build back that level of hope for the caregivers down in the facility," Mr. Bent said.

He explained that the equipment will directly benefit newborns and children receiving care at the hospital and support healthcare

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**Chairman:** Michael Stern; **Vice Chairman:** Simone Scarlett; **Board Members:** Wayne Chen, Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Omar Miller, Denise Edwards, Sherill Morgan, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Howard Lynch, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

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professionals working in the paediatric unit.

Mr. Bent also highlighted the resilience of the Black River Hospital team, which continued to provide essential services, including surgeries and maternity care, despite extensive damage to sections of the facility.

The equipment is expected to benefit the more than 150,000 residents who depend on the hospital, representing another important step in the facility's continued recovery following Hurricane Melissa.

The items were handed over on Friday June 5 at the JN Corporate Offices in Kingston.

Picture 1



**Mr. Errol Greene, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health & Wellness (left); Mr. Michael Stern, Chairman for the Southern Regional Health Authority Board (2<sup>nd</sup> right); Mr. Michael Bent, SRHA Regional Director; (3<sup>rd</sup> right); Mr. Wayne Wray, Governor, United Way of Jamaica (right), Mr. Pierpont Wilson, President, Rotary Club of St. Andrew North (3<sup>rd</sup> left) and Ms. Peta-Gay Pryce, Assistant District Governor (Rotary District 7020) share a photo opportunity, following the handover of items to the hospital.**

(more)

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Picture 2



Some of the donated items.

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