



SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI

TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM



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Black River Hospital
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PRESS RELEASE

June 1, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ear Nose and Throat Services For Children Now Offered in Central Jamaica After \$823,000 Donation

Previously, persons needing surgeries to remove foreign objects from the oesophagus would have to be transferred to hospitals in Kingston; however, this and other services are now being offered for both adults and children at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH) through the donation of clinical equipment from the Manchester Wellness Foundation, valued at \$823,000.00.

The donation of clinical equipment including suction aspirators, grasping forceps, oesophagoscopes and rigid paediatric oesophagoscopes to enable emergency and surgical intervention for children at the MRH Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department, was handed over by the non-profit organization on Wednesday, May 31 at the Mandeville Regional Hospital.

According to CEO of the MRH, Mr. Alwyn Miller, the 2106 donation of clinical equipment to enable emergency and surgical intervention for adults by the Foundation has contributed to an 11 percent increase in the number of patients accessing services at the ENT Department.

"I am pleased to inform that the benevolence of the Foundation has not been in vain and whilst there are contributing factors, when I checked the figures, it suggested that the ENT Department saw some 451 more patients in 2016 than it did in 2015, with a total of 4,366 patients. I hasten to say that this department is a department of two and I want to applaud the team in terms of the work that they have been doing" the CEO said.

Turning to the significance of the donation, Mr. Miller added: "Certainly we can understand the importance of having that expertise available right here in our community rather than having to transfer some of those patients to other facilities outside of the region. This is evidence that the work of the Manchester Wellness Foundation is reaping success. I hope you will feel encouraged by it and will continue to support us as a hospital in strengthening our services. We want to encourage the community at large to continue to support the endeavors of the Foundation. "

(more)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; Vice Chairman: Michael Stern **Board Members:** Marcus Greenwood, Krishan James, Stafford Haughton, Lorraine Green Mason, Lennox Powell, Dr Lloyd Reynolds, Winston Maragh, Dr St Aubyn Bartlett, Dr Lundie Richards, **Directors: Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh



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For, Consultant at the MRH ENT Department, Dr. Andrew Manning, the donation made by the Foundation is priceless adding that "the adult oesophagoscope equipment has allowed us to perform rigid oesophagoscopy, that is looking down patients gullets, the layman term for the esophagus. The reasons for doing this is for patients who have ingested foreign bodies and also many patients who may have suspected cancers in the esophagus. So we will be able to look down and perform the procedures and we will no longer have to send some of the patients to Kingston".

Regional Director of the SRHA, Mr. Michael Bent pointed out that though the Foundation consists of only nine members and has been in existence for 14 years, the organization has been a very consistent and reliable partner for the Authority.

"I know that this and other hospitals have benefited from your efforts throughout these years and we want to commend the Foundation for its efforts over the years because we need it. As an organization, we have put together a retooling plan for our facilities and we are cognizant that we will not be able to provide adequate support through funding from the government. We want to have reliable equipment and instruments at our facilities that are efficient and also cutting edge and so this contribution to the ENT Unit will support the fulfilling of our goals and retooling plan" Mr. Bent pointed out.

Since the staging of events in 2010, the Foundation has raised and disbursed in excess of \$10 million to hospitals and health centres in Manchester through two major fundraising events, a run walk and a vintage party.

(more)

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Picture 1



Consultant at the ENT Department of the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Dr. Andrew Manning (2nd left) receives a piece of equipment from Patron Coordinator of the Manchester Wellness Foundation, Mrs. Carolgene Williams. Sharing in the moment are SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent (right) and CEO of the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Mr. Alwyn Miller.

(more)

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Picture 2



Consultant at the ENT Department of the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH), Dr. Andrew Manning demonstrates the use of one of the several pieces of equipment while Senior Medical Officer at the MRH, Dr. Everton McIntosh looks on.

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For more information contact:
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