



News Release:
Kingston Jamaica
November 13, 2008

Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation Donates Orthopedic Drill to the Kingston Public Hospital

SJF has donated an orthopedic drill system, valuing US\$25,309.61 or JA \$1,974,150 to the Kingston Public Hospital to enable the hospital to be more efficient in conducting surgeries on their Scoliosis patients. Children falling under the Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation's programme as well as other scoliosis patients in general, will benefit from this donation.

The drill used prior to the purchase of this new drill was fraught with challenges. It was a gas operated drill that was connected to a cylinder via a hose. During surgery, the hose would oftentimes become detached from the cylinder and even leak making the procedure a dangerous one. There were times when in the middle of a procedure the cylinder would run out of gas causing lengthy delays in completing surgery.

This new drill is battery operated with a reserve battery that allows for a quick change of batteries should the one being used runs out of charge. In essence, it will reduce waste and allow for faster surgery times. When the drill was ordered KPH did not have any working drill. Since then the hospital acquired two (2) additional ones, increasing the number of drills at the hospital to three (3). The hospital needs six (6) drills to operate efficiently. The donation of this drill has moved the hospital further along the road of providing efficient scoliosis care and will result in a significant increase in patient turn over.

The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation (SJF) is committed to addressing the healthcare needs of children islandwide. It is this commitment that saw us partnering with the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) to ensure that poor children under the age of 18 who are suffering with Scoliosis meet the cost of surgery and to bring attention to this crippling disease.

At the launch of the programme in May 2008 a sum of seven million five hundred thousand dollars (J\$7.5 m) was committed by the Foundation over the next five years.

Since launching its Scoliosis Care programme in May of 2008 the Bank has provided surgeries for four young ladies who are enrolled in high schools across the island.

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