

Jamaica  
June 2, 2008

Global Links 13th container of the year, to May Pen Regional Hospital, is our 36<sup>th</sup> shipment of medical aid to Jamaica since 1990.

May Pen is a 150-bed hospital that serves approximately 60,000 patients per year. Executive Director Kathleen Hower and Program Officer Andrea Arkin visited this hospital during an assessment visit in January 2008 and met with the director and staff. May Pen was recently upgraded to include more specialties and services, and since that time it has been difficult to meet the increased demand from the population. One of the biggest challenges for May Pen from this classification upgrade is the shortage of furnishings, equipment, instruments and disposable supplies needed to accommodate the increased patient load. Shortly after this visit, the director emailed the completed needs assessment and Global Links was able to meet many of the needs listed as well as those observed during the visit.

Global Links fulfilled nine of the top ten specified needs, including ten manual crank beds, three intensive care beds donated from UPMC Shadyside, six gurneys, one emergency crash cart and one Amsco 2080 OR table. During the tour of the emergency room, one of the nurses expressed a need for pulse oximeters and an emergency crash cart. Thanks to a generous donation from the manufacturer MASSIMO, we were able to include two pulse oximeters that matched the electrical requirements in Jamaica. Other key equipment requested and included in this container were defibrillators, thermometers, blood pressure units, a microscope and a box of stainless steel surgical instruments. Additionally, there were over 200 boxes of assorted medical supplies and Standard Textile linens.

This donation will help this busy hospital meet the increased demand from the population and provide better health care.