

# Smiles Across the World: An Outreach Initiative to Jamaica

June Limb, DDS 2024, Shiv Patel, DDS 2024, Kayla Hunt, DDS 2024, John Killam, DDS 2024 University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, San Francisco

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Jamaica service learning trip has been a long-standing opportunity for Dugoni students to provide care and improve oral health for the people of Jamaica. After a 2 year hiatus due to COVID-19, in 2022 the trip was reinstated with 38 student and 9 faculty volunteers. This team was lead by 4 senior and 4 junior student leaders who were crucial to the success of the trip.





### **METHODS**

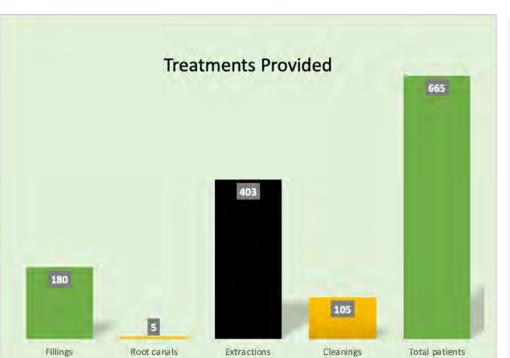
We worked with 1000 Smiles from Great Shape, a non-profit organization that has been a long-time partner with the UOP dental school.

As a student run initiative, each of the student leaders were delegated a category of focus, such as supplies, fundraising, liaising with GreatShape, and logistics. The leaders were also responsible for the day to day operations of the clinics, one of which was run for 5 days at a community center in Ocho Rios for local local villagers, and the other which was set up in the resort to provide treatment for the hotel staff.

Volunteers were assigned roles such as triage, prophys, taking radiographs, restorative procedures, extractions, post-op instructions, and distribution of medications and oral hygiene materials throughout the clinic site.

Some volunteers also had the opportunity to visit schools throughout the week to educate children on the importance of oral health and distributed oral hygiene materials.







#### **RESULTS**

Throughout the five days of clinical operations, dental care was provided to 665 patients, including 403 extractions, 180 fillings, 5 root canals, and 105 cleanings. In addition to direct dental procedures, over 2000 children in 5 different schools were provided with toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss, and were educated on the importance and value of oral hygiene.

Supplies including handpieces, antibiotics, pain medications, surgical instruments, and toys for children were procured through a partnership with Henry Schein and personal donations. Through our fundraising efforts including bake sales, sponsorships with Chipotle and Panda Express, and solicitating donations on social media, we were able to raise over \$4000.









### **CONCLUSION**

The 2022 clinic in Ocho Rios was successful in both the outreach to the Jamaican communities with a focus on patient education and dental treatments, and also the takeaways that the participants returned with. In order to continue this momentum of international community outreach, the student leaders for the trip have created a manual for future participants, providing guidelines for upcoming trips and to improve upon previous experiences. In the more recent future, the DDS 2024 student leader team have been actively planning the 2023 Montego Bay service learning trip.







## Acknowledgements

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