

# WRHA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## JACKSON TOWN GETS NEW HEALTH CENTRE

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JULY--SEPTEMBER  
ISSUE #003



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# JULY ACTIVITIES



# WRHA HOSTS MENS HEALTH FAIR



Staff at the Cornwall Regional Hospital receiving pedicures.

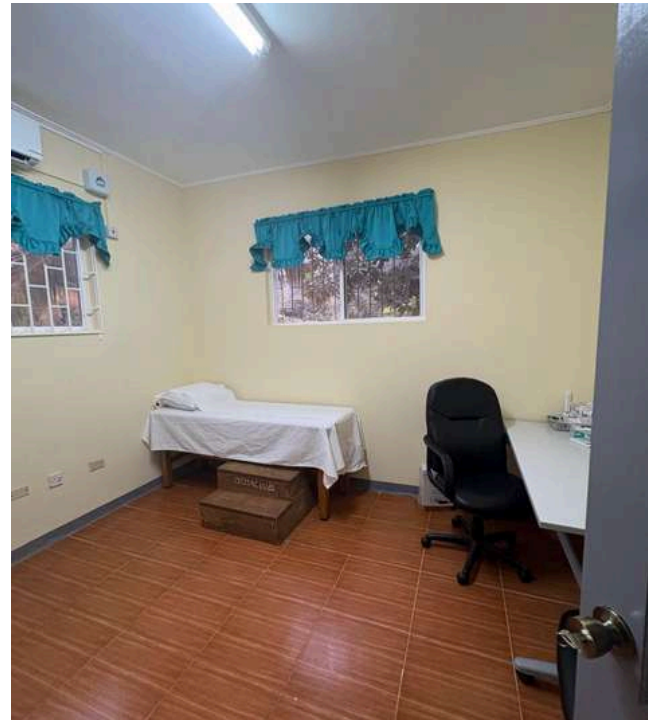
In celebration of Healthcare Workers Month, and as part of the ongoing commitment to promoting wellness, the Western Regional Health Authority hosted a successful, Men's Health Fair under the theme "Promoting Healthy Habits, Building Stronger Men". The health fair targeted male healthcare workers by providing health screenings and Wellness



# Jackson Town Health Centre Reopened

Residents of Jackson Town, Trelawny, now have access to enhanced primary healthcare services following the \$23 million renovation and reopening of the Jackson Town Health Centre on July 24, under the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Operation Refresh programme.

The facility, which had been closed for two years due to infrastructural issues, was refurbished. Upgrades included structural and roof repairs, perimeter fencing, a larger waiting area, new furniture, electrical and air-conditioning improvements, window replacements, and paved parking.



The investment underscores the Government's commitment to improving community healthcare delivery. Over \$23 million was spent on the Jackson Town Health Centre for both staff and residents. It must be comfortable, functional, and welcoming—somewhere people feel at peace and can access healing,” Dr. Tufton said.

Residents and staff were encouraged residents to take pride in the upgraded facility. They were urged by the Minister of Health and Wellness to protect the It's your place. You pay for it, and we want you to have it for as long as you reside here,” he urged





# Savanna-la-mar hospital expansion



# Savanna-la-mar hospital expansion



# Savanna-la-mar hospital gets major expansion

The Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital, Westmoreland’s main public healthcare facility, is finally set to receive a long-overdue expansion.

Thanks to a renewed national focus on healthcare infrastructure, the hospital is now the subject of a significant multi-phase expansion project, which is expected to be completed over the next two years.

The expansion project will begin with the construction of a brand-new Accident & Emergency wing to accommodate the growing number of trauma cases in the region. The existing A&E space will then be repurposed to add more ward capacity. Later phases will see the development of a modern outpatient department, diagnostics centre, and additional inpatient wards, along with upgraded administrative spaces. Plans also include constructing two new floors above the former COVID-19 ward to provide approximately 80 more bed spaces.

The project is not only about expanding square footage—it’s about delivering more timely, dignified, and effective care to the people of Westmoreland and neighbouring parishes. With the architectural designs and costing already completed, ground-breaking is expected soon.

This initiative marks a turning point for the Savanna-la-Mar Hospital, setting the stage for a healthier future for all who depend on it.

## WRHA hosts Annual Sports Day

The WHA Annual Sports Day was held with great enthusiasm and energy on July 31, 2025 at the Catherine Hall Sports Complex. The event brought together staff, well-wishers and families in a celebration of athletic talent, teamwork, and community spirit.

From the opening ceremony, featuring a vibrant parade to the final medal presentations, the day was packed with excitement and competitive spirit.

Staff Members participated in a variety of track and field events including sprints, relays, apple bobbin, cheerleading, and more. Each event showcased the hard work, determination, and discipline the participants had put into their training.



The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners were awarded medals, cakes and trophies. The overall championship trophy was claimed by Cornwall Regional Hospital, who showed exemplary performance throughout all the events.



# AUGUST ACTIVITIES





# HOPEWELL HEALTH CENTRE ADOPTED BY TRYALL FUND

The Hopewell Health Centre in Hanover has been officially adopted by the Tryall Fund under the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Adopt-a-Clinic programme. This partnership marks a significant step forward in improving access to quality primary healthcare services for residents in the Hopewell area. The Tryall Fund has committed to supporting the clinic with an annual contribution of US\$8,000 over a three-year period. These funds will be used for much-needed upgrades, including the installation of air conditioning in the main building and the renovation of a nearby cottage to facilitate maternal health services and the introduction of a dental clinic.

This adoption is part of a wider national initiative aimed at enhancing public healthcare through partnerships with private sector organizations, community groups, and philanthropic entities. The Hopewell Health Centre is now the 58th clinic to be adopted under this programme, which has so far attracted commitments of over J\$229 million. The government, through the Ministry of Health and Wellness, has also invested approximately J\$3.88 billion in primary healthcare improvements across the island over the last five years.



## WRHA hosts World Mosquito Day

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) recently organized a spirited parade through the streets to mark World Mosquito Day, drawing attention to the dangers of mosquito-borne illnesses and the essential role of community participation in prevention. Health workers, vector control officers, and public health promoters marched together carrying posters and placards with messages urging residents to eliminate breeding sites, protect themselves, and support local efforts to reduce mosquito populations. Along the route, participants distributed flyers, engaged passersby in conversation about dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and other mosquito-transmitted diseases, and encouraged people to join in the fight by practicing measures such as cleaning up stagnant water and covering containers. At a concluding ceremony, WRHA leaders acknowledged the ongoing challenge of vector-borne diseases in the region and reaffirmed their commitment to increasing surveillance, conducting fogging and larvicidal operations, and partnering with communities for long-term behavioral change. The parade underscored the message that mosquito control is not just the work of health authorities, but a shared responsibility of every citizen.



# SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES



# WRHA celebrates Maintenance Week

The Western Regional Health Authority celebrated its Maintenance Week festivities, placing a well-deserved spotlight on the hardworking men and women who keep the region's health facilities safe, functional, and resilient. Held under the inspiring theme "Sustaining Excellence: Powering Healthcare with Precision and Pride," the week highlighted the critical role of the maintenance workforce in delivering high-quality healthcare services across western Jamaica.

The week's activities showcased a balanced blend of professional development, community engagement, and staff appreciation.



It kicked off with a health fair and a spirited church service, setting a positive tone of wellness and gratitude for the dedicated teams who ensure that the WRHA's infrastructure operates at peak performance. Throughout the week, each parish mounted informative booths that demonstrated the diverse skills and responsibilities of the maintenance staff—from electrical and mechanical engineering to plumbing, biomedical servicing, and general facility upkeep. These displays provided both staff and visitors with deeper insight into the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the region's health institutions running smoothly.

The celebrations culminated in a well-attended Awards and Cocktail Ceremony, honouring exemplary employees whose dedication and craftsmanship have contributed significantly to the region's operational excellence. Awards were presented to individuals and parish teams that demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and commitment to the values of the WRHA.



# Caribbean Wellness Day Fun Park Run



On Saturday, 13 September 2025, the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) joined Jamaicans across the island in commemorating Caribbean Wellness Day, a regional initiative to encourage healthy living and prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This year's activities in the western region were staged at Montego Bay's Harmony Beach Park, where members of the public and WRHA staff came together for a vibrant, health-promoting event.

The day featured a run/walk, giving participants a fun and active way to mark the occasion. A dedicated Wellness Village offered free health screenings, including checks like blood pressure and BMI, giving community members easy access to important health information and preventive care. Families and individuals engaged in fitness demonstrations, healthy-food tastings, educational booths, games, and cultural activities, blending wellness, learning and community spirit.

# WRHA hosts annual Retirement Luncheon

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) recently hosted its annual Retirement Luncheon, a warm and heartfelt celebration honouring 33 employees who have completed their years of service to the organisation. Held on Thursday, September 26, 2025 at the MEET Conference and Event Centre in Montego Bay, the event brought together retirees, colleagues, and members of the leadership team for an afternoon of appreciation, reflection, and joyful recognition.

For decades, these retirees have been integral to the WRHA's mission of delivering quality healthcare across western Jamaica. Their roles spanned a wide cross-section of the health system, ranging from clinical care and administrative support to maintenance and frontline services and their years of dedication have left a lasting impact on patients, co-workers, and the wider communities they served. As tokens of appreciation, each retiree received a plaque and commemorative gift, acknowledging their commitment, professionalism, and loyalty to the region.





One of the most distinguished retirees was 63-year-old Richard Lawrence, a Senior Security Supervisor in the Security Department at Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH), who was honoured for an extraordinary 42 years of service.

Also honoured was Chief Medical Technologist in the laboratory at CRH, Sharon McLean, who devoted 40 years of her life to Jamaica’s healthcare system.

Ms. McLean reflected on her career as a journey she would gladly undertake again, citing the countless contributions she made to patient care and life-saving diagnoses. She shared that, in retirement, she intends to channel her energy into new pursuits.