

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN MISSION

Breast Cancer Awareness



**St. Elizabeth
Jamaica**

From Treasure Beach, Jamaica

Overview

Located on Jamaica's south coast in St. Elizabeth parish, Treasure Beach is a six-mile stretch of four coves and their associated settlements: Billy's Bay, Frenchman's Bay, Calabash Bay and Great Bay. The region is isolated from the main tourist areas, and is a gem for travelers in search of the off-beat. It is also where local fishermen ply a roaring trade.

Traveling inland on one of the many winding lanes, it soon becomes apparent that the area's second industry is farming, and in spite of its low rainfall, St. Elizabeth, the island's largest supplier of fruits and vegetables, easily earns its nickname "The Bread Basket of Jamaica".

Many of the local homesteaders who can take credit for this are female. Like their counterparts around the world, their priority is to pour into their families, often at their own expense. These women work hard, up at the crack of dawn stooped low over their fields, and riding their donkeys into town, laden with their fresh produce to sell. They are famously called the "donkey ladies."

With an uncertain daily income, breast cancer preventive care is a privilege that is not on their radar. There is absolutely no wiggle room in their budget to spend \$60 on a mammogram, \$48 on a sonogram, or even \$1,200 on a biopsy.

Local non-profit organizations, the Treasure Beach Women's Group (**TBWG**) and Pothula & Parchment, Inc., headed by Dr. & Mrs. Vish, are only too aware of the importance of closing this critical educational gap on breast cancer awareness and prevention.



Coordinates: 17.8841° N, 77.7656° W

Project Snapshot

Global Humanitarian Mission, as a Christian organization enacts the Corporal Works of Mercy to those we serve. This includes supporting women who are overburdened as the head of their household, and neglectful of themselves.

The **Breast Cancer Awareness** program is being established to support the work of Dr. Vish and TBWG in Treasure Beach, St. Elizabeth, in educating local women of the dreaded disease, and the importance of mammogram screening, as well as providing them with access to intervention measures.

There are very few diagnostic centers on the island who will partner in this program. Women who participate will be spared the expense of breast examinations, screenings, post-screening appointments, and further interventions, such as ultrasounds or even biopsies. All that they will be required to do is pay for their transportation to the participating diagnostic center for their scheduled appointment.

The program is two-fold: Ensure that a minimum of **300** women are screened for early detection by mid-2025, and identify women in need for breast prostheses.

The Process

- Dr. Vish arranges with the Mandeville Radiology Centre, for 10 women at a time to have mammograms. The Center has hired a radiologist especially for these weekly appointments.
- Women contact TBWG offices to schedule an appointment.
- Once the women are screened, the results are sent to Dr. Vish who reads them, free of cost.
- The reports are then delivered to the women through the office of TBWG.
- Dr. Vish contacts the patients who need follow-up ultrasound or further diagnostics, and relays the results to them, making the necessary arrangements – ***Again, free of cost!***

This program will be promoted through local churches, schools, pharmacies, doctors' offices, Government health centers, as well as social gatherings.

TOTAL COST: \$10,000.00

From Global Humanitarian Mission

Women in this deeply rural area are mostly single parents who support their families by farming their homesteads. That's all they know. They scrape by and reap to feed their children and send them to school. And there is nothing left over for anything else.

Most of these women live their entire lives without ever undergoing a mammogram or any other preventive health care – *For the simple reason, that they just cannot afford it!*

Dr. Vish and the TBWG have set themselves an uphill task.

First! To educate local women on the importance of preventive screenings.

Then! Convincing them that nothing is required of them, except to show up for their appointment.

Your gift will give the gift of life - To women who live without health benefits.



*“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health,
As it goes well with your soul.” 3 John 1:2*

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