

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN MISSION

Surviving The Odds in 2025



St. Elizabeth
Jamaica

Overview

Breast cancer is a leading cause of death, morbidity, and life disruption.

In Jamaica, breast cancer is the leading cancer in women, followed by cervical cancer. Approximately 300 women die from breast cancer each year.

The incidence is 43 per 100,000, attributing to approximately 1,200 new cases per year. The fatality rate is 50%, three times the rate of the United States. This is mainly due to delayed diagnosis.

Screening for breast cancer is well below the expected rate. It is less than 10% of the eligible population. Causes are multifactorial. Lack of a formal screening program at government hospitals is the main reason, so the burden falls on the population to seek private health care. The process involves a visit to a private doctor; paying a fee; obtaining a requisition for the mammogram; scheduling the procedure; getting the procedure done and paying the fee; and revisiting the private doctor for the report, that requires yet another fee. All this is literally out of reach for the vast majority of the population. Thus screening remains less than 10%, and for most of the cancers, diagnosis is delayed.

Treasure Beach, on Jamaica's south coast, happens to be a gem for travelers in search of the off-beat. It is also where local fishermen ply a roaring trade, and many households are headed by single mothers.

It is for these women that local community non-profit organizations, **Treasure Beach Women's Group (TBWG)**, in conjunction with Dr. Vish of **Pothula & Parchment Inc.** first launched a screening program in 2019 for women in Treasure Beach and the adjoining communities.

These are undereducated, and most eke out a living as subsistence farmers, while others work as domestics. They pour everything they have into their families, with nothing left over for themselves. 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. With an uncertain daily income, breast cancer preventive care is a privilege, so most have never had a mammogram in their entire life.

Last year, **151** women were given the opportunity to undergo mammograms through this program. As a result of their findings, **10** women went on to do ultrasounds.

But for the generosity of donors, these women would not have been able to afford these lifesaving preventive measures!

Where They Are



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 households, and neglectful of themselves.

Surviving The Odds in 2025 is a continuation of the Breast Cancer Awareness program that was established in 2019 (with a hiatus during the COVID pandemic).

This vital program educates women on the importance of regular screenings, and will provide a lifesaving opportunity for **150** women to undergo mammograms for the very first time, with follow-up ultrasounds as needed.

The Process

- There are very few diagnostic centers on the island who will partner in this program. Dr. Vish arranges with the Mandeville Radiology Centre, for 10 women at a time to undergo mammograms. The Center has hired a radiologist especially for these weekly appointments.
- Women contact TBWG offices to schedule an appointment.
- Once they are screened, the results are sent to Dr. Vish who reads them, ***free of cost.***
- The reports are then delivered to the patients through the office of TBWG.
- Dr. Vish personally contacts the patients who need follow-up ultrasound or further diagnostics, and relays the results to them, making any necessary arrangements – ***All, free of cost!***

All that these women will be required to pay for is their transportation for their scheduled appointment.

Approximately 44,861 women between the ages of 40-70 from neighboring parishes have been identified as eligible for this program.

'Surviving The Odds' is promoted through local churches, schools, pharmacies, doctors' offices, Government health centers, and social gatherings.

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$10,000.00

From Global Humanitarian Mission

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

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

Second! To convince them that nothing is required of them, except to show up for their appointment.

Thank you for considering women who live from day to day – *without health benefits.*

*Your sponsorship of this program will expand the reach to even more communities, providing a lifesaving opportunity for much more than **150** women!*



Women register outside the diagnostic center



*"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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