SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI
TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM

Mandeville Regional Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-2224/2212
634-3700
Fax: 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: 986-3226
Fax: 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2288/7033
625-3433
Fax: 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-4548/7869
Fax: 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-9174-5
Fax: 965-2701

PRESS RELEASE

December 15, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Southern Regional Health Authority supports the Ebenezer Home Annual Open Day and 15th Anniversary Celebration

The Ebenezer Home Management Committee held their Annual Open Day and 15th anniversary celebration under the theme 'Dignity in Mental Health' at the Ebenezer Home, situated on the Grounds of the Manchester Infirmary, on December 3. The fun-filled event was supported by the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) staff, Councillors, members of the clergy, members of the media and other distinguished guests.

Regional Technical Director, Dr. Michael Coombs, brought greetings from the SRHA and highlighted the fact that people who suffer from mental health have always been stigmatized in Jamaica. He stated that a conscious effort must be made by society to treat the mentally challenged with dignity. He stated that research shows that the majority of people who grapple with mental health come from dysfunctional homes.

Dr. Coombs noted that the SRHA has 'decided to go on a campaign to develop an initiative called 'Good Health Begins at Home' because a 'nation is only as healthy as its families'. He added that a 'spirit of family' needs to be restored in Jamaica and the SRHA has taken up that challenge.

Parish Admin Officer, Mrs. Sandia Chambers-Ferguson, represented the Manchester Health Department at the event. She said they are adopting a fresh approach to the management of health care within the parish of Manchester. She added that they are currently engaged in the process of creating a vision which will see Manchester boasting the most efficiently managed primary health care community system in the entire island.

Guest Speaker for the event and Chairman for the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Mr. Michael Stewart, congratulated the Ebenezer Home for their decade and a half of service to the mental health community. He commended the Ebenezer Home for 'boosting self-esteem', protecting human dignity' and 'contributing to the preservation of the social fabric of the parish'.

The Chairman stated that the theme, "Dignity in Mental Health" is 'timely and relevant as Jamaica is at 'a fundamental stage of mental health care and the future holds strong possibilities'. Mr. Stewart said that those who are

Chairman: Michael Stewart; **Vice Chairman:** Carlton Bailey; **Directors:** Nancy Davis; H Doreen Evans; Claudine Heaven; Hopeton McCatty; Seymour Stewart; Dr. Lundie Richards; Grace Foster-Reid; Nadalie Walker-Rose; **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh

Mandeville Regional Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-2224/2212
634-3700
Fax: 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: 986-3226
Fax: 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2288/7033
625-3433
Fax: 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-4548/7869
Fax: 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-9174-5
Fax: 965-2701

mentally challenged 'should no longer be seen as menaces to society but instead, socio-economic assets who when empowered will only continue to add value to the world'.

He added that 'partnerships with institutions like Ebenezer Home and the government of Jamaica will increase proximal and affordable access to Mental Health care and resources'.

Honourable Sally Porteous, Custos Rotulorum of Manchester, in her address, said she could not miss the celebration even though she had another engagement. She commended the Ebenezer Home on its service over the years and noted that she looks forward to the continual growth of the home.

The program steered by the Master of Ceremonies and Vice Chairman of the Ebenezer Home, Mr. Ken Van Hone saw items from the Ebenezer Home residents, Central Manchester Returned Citizens Association and Miss Jamaica Festival Queen, Chereese Ricketts.

Ms. Ricketts, who facilitates dance classes with the residents of the Ebenezer Home on a weekly basis, said that she has learnt that 'we are all one, brothers and sisters, who should help each other through the various challenges we face in life.

Reverend Clarister Johnson, Chairman of The Ebenezer Home Management Committee, did the Welcome and Introduction for the celebration and also gave an overview of the Ebenezer Home where she listed some of the projects they have undertaken like Animal husbandry and Crop farming which help to fund the home and feed the residents.

The Ebenezer Home Management Committee, an NGO has been operating Ebenezer Home as a half way house for the mentally challenged, street people from Mandeville and its environs since November 2000. At present, they house twenty (20) men and give assistance to others who are in need of a shower, a change of clothes, a meal and medical attention on a drop in basis.

Power 106 FM broadcast its popular programme "Both Sides of the Story" from the Ebenezer Home on the day.

(more)

Chairman: Michael Stewart; **Vice Chairman:** Carlton Bailey; **Directors:** Nancy Davis; H Doreen Evans; Claudine Heaven; Hopeton McCatty; Seymour Stewart; Dr. Lundie Richards; Grace Foster-Reid; Nadalie Walker-Rose; **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI
TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM

Mandeville Regional Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-2224/2212
634-3700
Fax: 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: 986-3226
Fax: 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2288/7033
625-3433
Fax: 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-4548/7869
Fax: 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-9174-5
Fax: 965-2701

Residents of the Ebenezer Home wait for the programme to begin.

(more)

Chairman: Michael Stewart; **Vice Chairman:** Carlton Bailey; **Directors:** Nancy Davis; H Doreen Evans; Claudine Heaven; Hopeton McCatty; Seymour Stewart; Dr. Lundie Richards; Grace Foster-Reid; Nadalie Walker-Rose; **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI
TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM

Mandeville Regional Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-2224/2212
634-3700
Fax: 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: 986-3226
Fax: 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2288/7033
625-3433
Fax: 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-4548/7869
Fax: 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-9174-5
Fax: 965-2701

Regional Technical Director, Dr. Michael Coombs
Promotes the SRHA 'Good Health Begins at Home' Initiative

(more)

Chairman: Michael Stewart; **Vice Chairman:** Carlton Bailey; **Directors:** Nancy Davis; H Doreen Evans; Claudine Heaven; Hopeton McCatty; Seymour Stewart; Dr. Lundie Richards; Grace Foster-Reid; Nadalie Walker-Rose; **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI
TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM

Mandeville Regional Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-2224/2212
634-3700
Fax: 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: 986-3226
Fax: 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2288/7033
625-3433
Fax: 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-4548/7869
Fax: 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-9174-5
Fax: 965-2701

Ebenezer Home Management Committee member, Ms. Edlin Thompson & Hon. Sally Porteous, Custos Rotulorum of Manchester smile for the camera.

(more)

Chairman: Michael Stewart; **Vice Chairman:** Carlton Bailey; **Directors:** Nancy Davis; H Doreen Evans; Claudine Heaven; Hopeton McCatty; Seymour Stewart; Dr. Lundie Richards; Grace Foster-Reid; Nadalie Walker-Rose; **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI
TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM

Mandeville Regional Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-2224/2212
634-3700
Fax: 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: 986-3226
Fax: 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: 962-2288/7033
625-3433
Fax: 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: 986-4548/7869
Fax: 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: 965-9174-5
Fax: 965-2701

Mr. Michael Stewart, Chairman, SRHA and Guest Speaker for the event delivers his address.

-30-

For more information contact:
Maren L. Johnson/Latoya Laylor Brown
Public Relations & Advocacy Officer
Southern Regional Health Authority
Tel: 962-8232/779-2663
Email: latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm

Chairman: Michael Stewart; **Vice Chairman:** Carlton Bailey; **Directors:** Nancy Davis; H Doreen Evans; Claudine Heaven; Hopeton McCatty; Seymour Stewart; Dr. Lundie Richards; Grace Foster-Reid; Nadalie Walker-Rose; **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh