



Black River Hospital Gets Donation from In-Service Education Department



Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Michael Bent (centre) tests a microphone donated by the In-Service Department of the Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth on August 5. The microphone was among several items donated to the hospital by the department, including blood pressure testing machines, a public-address system, two lecterns and a mural. Displaying some of the items (from left) are Nurse Manager with responsibility for the In-service Education Department, Dorcia Brown-Lyle, and Chief Executive Officer at the hospital, Diana Brown-Miller.

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In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Black River Hospital Gets Donation from In-Service Education Department



A portion of the recent donation to the hospital, which includes 12 digital blood pressure machines with rechargeable batteries, two lecterns, and the facility's first public address (PA) system.

The In-service Education Department at the Black River Hospital has donated medical equipment and supplies valued at more than \$1 million to the facility.

The items, which were handed over during a special ceremony on August 5, comprised 12 blood-pressure machines with rechargeable batteries, two lecterns and the hospital's first public address (PA) system.

A commemorative mural, which honours current and past staff, was also unveiled as part of the contribution.

Nurse Manager with responsibility for the department, Dorcia Brown-Lyle, explained that the items were purchased from the proceeds of the annual In-Service

Education Symposium, which is the department's signature fundraiser.

"We continue to invest in our staff and patients because that's our mission – to educate and to improve the delivery of care. Last year, over 1,000 persons from more than 30 countries participated in our virtual symposium, and with the funds raised, we were able to make this donation possible," she said.

Nurse Brown-Lyle shared that over the past few years, the department has contributed more than \$2.5 million to hospital and community-based projects, including outreach to boys' homes and the donation of medical equipment.

Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Diana Brown-Miller, expressed appreciation for the support.

"This is not just a donation, it's legacy building. Legacy isn't only about grand achievements; it's about everyday choices and values that uplift others. From the mural to the PA system, this contribution reflects the heart of this team," she noted.

The mural, a first for the hospital, features staff members and high-achieving local students, including two Munro College graduates, and was painted by local artist Pamela Chang.

Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Michael Bent, commended the initiative, noting that it reflects the kind of innovation and leadership needed in healthcare.

"This is what true partnership looks like – staff not just showing up but investing time and effort into making the hospital better," he said.

The In-Service Education team is looking to build on its outreach efforts and plans to host a hybrid 10th anniversary symposium in 2026.

Credit: Jamaica Information Service

Facilities on the Move

SRHA Promotes Wellness at Denbigh Agricultural Show

Health met agriculture in a powerful way as the SRHA joined thousands of Jamaicans at the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show in May Pen, Clarendon on August 1, 2025. The SRHA team was on location offering free wellness support and engaging the public on a wide range of vital health services.

Attendees took advantage of the "Know Your Numbers" initiative, which featured screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and body mass index. The health booth also offered HIV and syphilis testing, nutrition counselling with food sampling, and access to on-site physicians who explained screening results and provided guidance.

Additional services included immunization for school children, including the HPV vaccine, vector control and environmental health information, and dental counselling.

Through initiatives like these, the SRHA continues to demonstrate its commitment to delivering quality healthcare beyond hospital walls and into the heart of the community.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Lionel Town Hospital Conducts Mass Casualty Simulation Exercise

On Wednesday, August 20, the Lionel Town Hospital carried out an accident and emergency mass casualty simulation exercise aimed at testing the facility's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

The simulation served as a vital drill to assess the hospital's readiness, strengthen teamwork, and evaluate response strategies in the event of a real-life crisis. Staff across departments collaborated under high-pressure scenarios, ensuring protocols were followed and critical decision-making was effectively executed.

Exercises like these are essential to maintaining a high standard of emergency care, and Lionel Town Hospital remains committed to continuous improvement in disaster readiness and patient safety.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Clarendon Health Department Dental Team Promotes Oral Health at Health Fair

The Clarendon Health Department's dental team brought oral health awareness directly to the community at a health fair hosted by the Cari-Med Group at National Self Serve wholesale in May Pen, on Friday, August 22, 2025.

The event provided an opportunity for the staff to engage with the public, offering oral health education, tips on proper dental hygiene, and guidance on accessing dental services within the community.

Attendees were able to receive dental examinations, school dental reports, and dental cleaning, as well as interact directly with dental professionals and learn about preventative care.

The Clarendon Health Department remains committed to promoting healthy smiles across the parish and supporting initiatives that bring health services closer to the people.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Percy Junor Wins Big at Regional Sports Day

What a win for Percy Junor Hospital! On Friday, August 22, the facility proudly celebrated its championship victory at the Regional Sports Day held on July 31, 2025.

From cricket and football to cheerleading, dominoes, and field events, the team delivered outstanding performances, placing in the top three across every category and ultimately securing the overall title.

At Percy Junor Hospital, the core values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Efficiency continue to shine through, as the facility delivers quality care while celebrating excellence in every arena.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

King's Reign: Celebrating the Men of Lionel Town Hospital

Strong, healthy men build strong, healthy communities. On Wednesday, August 27, Lionel Town Hospital hosted King’s Reign, a wellness symposium honoring its male staff. The event focused on men’s health, self-care, mental wellness, and parenting, while also encouraging unity and support among colleagues.

With men representing 20 percent of the staff body, the initiative underscored the hospital’s commitment to inclusive staff development. Attendees received thoughtful gifts and engaged in enriching discussions, with many describing the experience as empowering and uplifting.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Regional Office Fetes Employees Children with Wellness Treat

The Regional Office hosted a special treat on Thursday, August 29 for its employees children, on Thursday, August 29. The event offered a day of fun, wellness, and celebration just for them.

Activities included dental checks, school medicals, and wellness support alongside treats such as snow cones, hot dogs, popcorn, and ice cream. Children enjoyed games, prizes, and surprises throughout the day.

The treat underscored SRHA’s commitment to staff wellness and family engagement, creating a lively space for laughter, bonding, and community spirit.

See below for highlights.



Staff Highlight

Percy Junor Hospital Celebrates Nurses Honored at NAJ LASCO Chin Foundation Nurse of the Year Awards

On Friday, July 25, the Percy Junor Hospital proudly celebrated two of our own for their remarkable achievements at the NAJ/LASCO Chin Foundation Nurse of the Year Awards.

Fione Joy Collins, Deputy Director of Nursing Services, was named Nurse of the Year 2025–2026. After placing as second runner-up in 2019, her perseverance and passion for nursing shone through, proving that “third time’s a charm.” With more than 25 years of dedicated service, Fione exemplifies excellence, leadership, and compassion in every aspect of her work.

Stacey-Ann Carpenter, Registered Nurse, proudly secured third place in the Public Speaking Challenge, further showcasing the depth of talent and skill within our nursing team.

From empowering women and inspiring the next generation to providing compassionate care each day, these exemplary nurses embody the true spirit of service. We commend and thank them as they continue to strengthen healthcare in our nation.



Fione Collins (left), Deputy Director of Nursing Services, receives a special plaque from the Percy Junor Hospital, presented by Julette Fraser-Clarke, Ward Manager. This is in recognition of her achievement as Nurse of the Year 2025–2026.



Stacey-Ann Carpenter, Registered Nurse, receives a special commendation from the Percy Junor Hospital, presented by Mr. Carlton Nichols, CEO in recognition of her third-place finish in the Public Speaking Challenge. Of the Nurse of the Year Awards.



From left: Dr. Carlos Wilson, Senior Medical Officer; Jacqueline Pennicook, Director of Nursing Services; Stacey-Ann Carpenter; Fione Collins; Mr. Carlton Nichols, CEO; and Faith Sterling, Operations Manager, share a proud moment during the special ceremony at Percy Junor Hospital.



Sophia Thompson

**Hospital Attendant
Lionel Town Hospital**

**Sophia Thompson: Balancing Service, Faith
and Entrepreneurship**



When you walk through the halls of the Lionel Town Hospital, chances are you will encounter the warm smile and steady presence of Sophia Thompson. For the past eight years, she has been much more than a hospital attendant. To patients, she is a source of comfort; to colleagues, a reminder that positivity and faith can brighten even the most challenging days.

Her duties include maintaining clean wards and ensuring that the hospital spaces are kept to the highest standard. Sophia views this work not simply as cleaning, but as creating a safe and healing environment for patients and staff.

Her journey has been what she describes as “bittersweet but rewarding.” Some days come with challenges, whether dealing with difficult situations or the pressure of the workload. However, Sophia has learned to cope through prayer and a positive mindset. For her, the most rewarding part of her job is being able to offer encouragement to patients. She recalls a moment when a new mother, admitted after delivery, was overwhelmed and in tears. Sophia comforted her, drawing from her own past experience of being hospitalized after childbirth.

Sophia believes her role goes beyond cleaning. It is also about lifting spirits and creating a supportive atmosphere for patients and colleagues. Guided by her favorite Bible verse, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord,” she continues to lean on faith for strength and motivation.

Outside of the hospital environment, Sophia wears many hats. In 2022, she was trained in Beauty Therapy, and in 2024, she completed advanced courses in Sports Massage Therapy at G.C. Foster College. From this, she launched her mobile spa business, Pink Grapefruit, offering massage, facials and other spa services in homes and offices. With careful time management, she balances her shifts at the hospital while building her client base. Her long-term vision is to expand the business, employ others and eventually open her own wellness school.

Sophia also has a passion for farming and greenery. She raises poultry, grows herbs and flowers, and recently partnered with the hospital’s gardener to beautify the hospital compound by planting flowers. This initiative earned her commendation from the hospital’s CEO and brought joy to staff and patients alike.

When asked about her greatest achievements, Sophia points to her personal growth and resilience. “Working on myself mentally and physically is one of my biggest achievements. I have also learned how to cope with adversity by encouraging myself in the Lord,” she explains.

Looking ahead, Sophia hopes to see her spa business fully established, her farming enterprise thriving, and her teaching dream realized. Her advice to her colleagues reflects her faith and values: “In everything, put God first. Don’t lean on your own understanding. Love, live and do your best, because at the end of the day, only your best is good enough.”

Sophia Thompson embodies dedication, faith and entrepreneurship, proving that one can serve the hospital community while also

DEPARTMENT

Spotlight

Behind every clinic visit, test result, or hospital stay, there is a team working diligently to ensure each patient’s medical journey is seamless. At Lionel Town Hospital, this vital responsibility rests with the Health Records Department, the guardians of medical information from registration to follow-up.

Their work extends far beyond filing papers. Each visit generates doctors’ and nurses’ notes, diagnoses, treatments, lab and scan results, medications, surgery reports, and more. By collecting and safeguarding this information, the team ensures providers have the complete picture needed for safe, effective care.

Accurate records mean patient safety. With up-to-date information, doctors avoid errors such as prescribing the wrong medication or ordering unnecessary tests. The department ensures data is accessible, giving healthcare teams confidence to make the best decisions.

Record-keeping has evolved from folders and filing cabinets to modern Electronic Health Records (EHR). Staff members are trained to enter and code data correctly while protecting it from unauthorized access. They also process requests for information from patients, doctors, insurance companies, and legal entities, releasing it only through secure and legal channels.

Confidentiality is central to their work. Guided by national regulations and hospital policies, the team ensures that whether paper or electronic, patient information remains private.

Beyond individual care, the department also supports the wider health system. By coding treatments and diagnoses, they generate accurate statistics that inform hospital management, public health research, and service improvements.

The work of the health records team is felt at every stage of care. From a routine clinic visit to a major procedure, their dedication ensures that health information is safe, accurate, and ready when it matters most.

Lionel Town Hospital

Health Records Department



| Team Members | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimone Rodney | Health Records Technician |
| Shanika Mitchell | Health Records Assistant |
| Tamoy Facey | Health Records Technician |
| Enid Campbell | Health Records Technician |
| Ru-Shawna Gordon | Health Records Technician |
| Camile Irving | Health Records Technician |
| Grace Allen | Health Records Technician |
| Neleica Golding-Waite | Health Records Technician |
| Julia Brown | Health Records Technician |
| Latonya Woodstock | Health Records Technician |

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TIPS TO REDUCING INTAKE OF SALTY & PROCESSED FOODS

- ✓ Read Food Labels. Look carefully at the sodium content and choose foods with less sodium
- ✓ Prepare foods with less table salt and artificial seasoning
- ✓ Avoid using salt at the table
- ✓ Use more herbs and spices to prepare meals
- ✓ Replace salty snacks with fruits, vegetables and unsalted nuts
- ✓ Purchase fresh meats, fish, poultry and nuts instead of salted ones



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**What did the pecan say
to the walnut?**

**“We’re friends because
we’re both nuts.”**



The Lighter Side

