



# Newly launched Junior Chamber hosts health fair

**D**ozens visited the St. Ann's Bay Health Centre to receive what they had to offer in the form of free health care. The Ocho Rios Junior Chamber (JCI) once again teamed up with the National Blood Bank to stage "Youth Health 2004" on Saturday, July 04.

However, the National Blood Bank was not present, as they had experienced a somewhat personal setback – one of their own had suffered a stroke. According to JCI president, Claudile Sydial, this was one of the main reasons for them not turning up. "One of the assistants had suffered a stroke and another worker fell ill, so they were not able to come today. Therefore there was no blood collection drive," she said. However, despite this unfortunate situation, the day's activities went as planned.

The day saw over 100 people seeking medical help of one kind or the other with students from the University Hospital of the West Indies and other practitioners coming to their aid. JCI members in their bright yellow vests were also ready to help. Various services were offered and all were free. These included medical checks, eye screenings, diabetic tests, immunizations, cholesterol screenings, cancer screenings and pap smears. There were also demonstrations of safe sex methods in the form of pictures, paraphernalia, and verbal education. But it was not only medicine that was on the agenda or available, as life insurance agents were on hand to discuss their products and policies. "This is more than a health event, it is also about insurance and giving out information regarding finances,"

Ms. Sydial said.

The day was a success because their expectations of seeing about 100 participants came true. Ms. Sydial said the JCI got several sponsors in the business community. "We also got food from hotels like Hedonism for the doctors and nurses," she said.

The fair was first held last year. Ms. Sydial says both organizations want to make this an annual event. The JCI is an organization dedicated to training young business people. "It is a wonderful organization where we call ourselves "agents of change". Young people come together for the good and betterment of themselves and the country," Ms. Sydial said.





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This attendee at the health faire staged by the Ocho Rios Junior Chamber takes a go at showing how to properly put on a condom.

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The number of participants at the stations were kept small to allow for greater interaction between themselves and their instructors.

There were six stations positioned for the symposium, namely, the X-ray, orthopaedic/ surgery, wound management, lifting, plaster and the traction stations. In wound management where the participants were shown and taught the various methods of how to treat wounds, wound classification and the management of wounds. There was also the X-ray station where the interpretation of an injury is done and assessed. The lifting station was another interesting area which was controlled by members of the Physiotherapy department. Here, participants were shown the correct method of lifting patients who have trauma accidents in order to prevent further injury.

Another station that was set up was the traction station where the right methods of applying skin traction was being done. The plaster room was another area where the attendants were able to get first hand experience on how to apply plaster which is used to assist in the healing of broken bones. Real patients were seen in this area being attended to by the experts while they paid keen attention to the procedures.

Finally, there was the orthopaedic/surgery station. This is where the various operating paraphernalia were laid out for the inspection and education of the attendants. There were countless tools necessary for surgery in this station, run by Dr Mark Minott, from the Spanish Town Hospital.

According to Dr Minott, surgery is done as a means of fixing trauma fractures. The reason why fractures are fixed with surgery is due to the developments in the field. Dr Minott said during the earlier periods, after fixing a fractured bone, it would not necessarily matter whether or not the patient regained use of their injured limb. However, in modern orthopaedics, the regaining of their anatomy after major accidents is of utmost importance to the patients as well as the doctors. Anything else would be unacceptable in today's world. Thus the reason for this seminar which is geared towards bringing forth the information and training necessary to the persons working within the field.