



Friends of Mount St. John Medical Centre Profile

Friends of Mount St. John Medical Centre (Friends of MSJMC) was formed out of the original nonprofit Society called "Friends of Holberton Hospital." The name changed when Holberton Hospital was closed, and Mount St. John Medical Centre came into being. Friends of Holberton Hospital was originally formed in September 1976, when it was recognized that the hospital needed assistance from outside resources. The Society was therefore established to assist the hospital by way of equipment, medical supplies, minor infrastructural changes, and training for hospital staff. The group, which consisted of twenty-nine members at the time, included the first President-elect, Mrs. Myra Walwyn, and Vice-President-elect, Mrs. Lisa Nicholson. Mrs. Walwyn volunteered her services in this capacity for more than thirty years.

Every year, the Friends of MSJMC identify projects based on a needs list presented by the hospital's executive. Fundraisers are then held to accomplish these goals. These fundraisers are heavily dependent on individuals in the community as well as private sector businesses. Our partners contribute towards the purchase of tickets, purchase or donate gifts that we auction at our functions, advertising, and various other means of support.

Thus far, Friends of MSJMC have assisted with the purchases of several pieces of critical equipment. The group has also collaborated with other organizations and businesses to accomplish the purchases. Items have included a dialysis machine and accompanying chair, a vascular ultrasound machine, and a portable Xray machine. From time to time, we also receive significant donations from Antiguans overseas, who donate funds, as well as general hospital supplies, through us for the Mount St. John's Medical Centre.

Since the advent of the Covid 19 pandemic, our efforts have been stymied due to safety protocols and gathering restrictions. However, we continue to provide support in whatever way possible using existing resources. The Friends of MSJMC intend to resume active fundraising efforts once restrictions are eased and in keeping with all amended Covid 19 protocols and guidelines.

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/373368852708765/?ref=share>

Chronicle of Projects

Over the years, the Society of Friends of Holberton Hospital grew and worked, along with Mill Reef Club on occasion, to raise funds, with Myra Walwyn as President. The Friends of Holberton Hospital completed several projects to include: -

- the construction and equipping of the rehabilitation centre in the 1990's, the Peace Corp and US Aid assisted with the building and training
- Refurbishing of lower Blackburn Ward in 1992
- Refurbishing of Edwards Ward after Hurricane Luis

Under the Friends of MSJMC, the work continues. Over the years, we have created annual fundraiser events to provide assistance to the MSJMC's general wards as well as hosted a special annual event entitled "Tickle Me Pink." This is dedicated to assisting the Oncology Unit and is held in October - Breast Cancer Awareness month. The Society also has other events to raise funds to provide much needed support in other areas.

Over the years, our list of projects has been extensive. We have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment to the hospital with the help of organizations, the private sector, and the local community. We provide support to the local organization, Breast Friends Cancer Awareness & Support Group, by making an annual donation of certificates to assist with their annual public screening. These certificates provide free mammograms and Ultrasounds to persons requiring further assessment during these screenings.

- Annual **Tickle Me Pink Fundraiser** for Breast Cancer Awareness Month: all funds raised go towards the purchasing of items for the Oncology Unit at the hospital, and to provide support to the Breast Friends Cancer Awareness & Support Group. This event was held annually for six years prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- For the past three years, the students, teachers and parents of St. Anthony's Secondary School have held a cancer awareness fundraising drive during the month of October. All funds raised are donated to the Friends of MSJMC in support of our cause during that month – the Oncology Unit at the hospital.
- Donations to the Oncology Unit thus far include – 1 Medication Fridge, 1 Clinical Care Recliner; 3 Medsmart Chemo Disposable Containers; 20 Rolls of Chemo waste bags(50/roll); 14 Chemoplus Chemo Spill Kits; an executive office chair, desk and filing cabinet. A Laminar Air Flow Hood was also donated to the Oncology Unit's Lab so that the chemists can safely mix the chemotherapy medication needed to treat cancer patients.
- Other donations to the hospital include: -
10 Infusion Pumps used to deliver fluids and medication to a patient's body in controlled amounts.

Patient safety items – 9 locking raised toilet seats, 40 grab bars, 50 safety grip shower and bathmats.

6 Overnight Sleep Chairs for the Children’s Ward.

25 Tilt Top over bed tables for the general wards; 1 foetal monitor for the Maternity Ward,

1 Oxygen Storage Tank, a UPS needed for the operating rooms, 1 EKG Machine, ventilation doors for the fourth floor, which is not air conditioned, 2 EDAN iM50 Patient Monitors donated to the Emergency Room and 10 Holter monitors.

(The Friends of MSJMC thanks all our contributors, partners, donors, and community supporters. Without them, none of this would be possible)