



Lucinda Kay
Great Shape! Inc. Public Relations
Cell: 509-280-6237
Lucinda@LucindaKay.com
www.gsJamaica.org

VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. BREAK FUNDRAISING RECORD NOW PREPARE FOR WORLD'S LARGEST DENTAL PROJECT

For immediate release:

(Ashland, OR 6/30/08) Volunteers from across the United States raised about \$30,000 this weekend for Great Shape! Inc. Executive Director, Joseph Wright says "It's so fitting we'd break our fundraising record on our 20th anniversary. Jamaica is so blessed to have so much support from the Rogue Valley and the U.S."

\$30,000 can provide dental care and education for 3000 kids in rural Jamaica.

This is all part of "1000 Smiles", the world's largest, humanitarian dental project.

About 200 people enjoyed Saturday's Fun-Raising Jam at the Historic Armory in Ashland, OR. They filled their bellies with gourmet Jamaican food, bid on trips and art, and danced to the rhythms of the band, Root Down.

You can apply online for Great Shape's 1000 Smiles at www.gsjamaica.org. We're recruiting dental professionals and non-dental professionals... anyone with a heart for the people of Jamaica.

The 1000 Smiles Dental Project serves more than 12,000 Jamaicans in temporary clinics and schools. Great Shape and its partners provide over 1.5 million dollars in dental services and education. **In rural Jamaica there is only one dentist for every 80,000 people!** Tooth decay leads to infections, diseases and even death. On an island where tourism is the number one industry, having a beautiful smile may be the difference between work and unemployment.

This year is also the launch of a new project called Great Shape! SuperKids. In schools where half the children are illiterate, volunteers will work to improve literacy through a curriculum of reading, computers, art, music and sports.

Great Shape! Inc. partners with Sandals Resorts International. The Jamaican owned company donates ½ million dollars in accommodations and support for the volunteers each year. The Jamaican Ministry of Health provides the infrastructure for the dental clinics.

Great Shape! Inc. is celebrating two decades of humanitarian work. It all started in 1988 when a group of Rogue Valley girlfriends sent duffel bags full of supplies after Hurricane Gilbert decimated the island. Volunteers have built roads, community centers and schools, supported literacy projects, and facilitated dental projects.

Please visit the website for more information: www.gsjamaica.org. For lively interviews, video and pictures, contact Lucinda Kay at 509-280-6237 or Lucinda@lucindakay.com.



Great Shape! Inc. is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization