

GREAT SHAPE!

825 Masonic Ave #5 San Francisco CA 94117

joseph@gsjamaica.org

www.gsjamaica.org

415.235.6207

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RE: Annual Report 2007

2007 was another historic year for Great Shape! Inc. From program development to fundraising to organizational development, Great Shape! took critical steps forward, ushering in a new era in this now 20 year old humanitarian NGO. Indeed, the future is very bright for the children of Jamaica where the efforts of Great Shape! are concerned. At the same time, the organization faces key strategic challenges in 2008 that must be addressed to provide the support and stability needed to continue the amazing success of the 1000 Smiles Dental Project, and indeed develop new programs such as reading literacy and eye care.

Programs

The 1000 Smiles Project has continued to develop both in size and sophistication. In it's full fifth year, the project served over 10,000 Jamaicans with dental care and education in rural communities where there is just one dentist for every 80,000 residents. Delivering over 1.5 million USD worth of services with roughly only \$35,000 in operating expenses is a remarkable achievement. The 1000 Smiles Project is made possible by the generous support of Sandals Resorts International who donated rooms and transportation for our 120 volunteers at a value of over \$250,000 a year.

Most importantly, thousands of children and adults have pain, suffering and humiliation turned into beautiful white healthy smiles of pride and joy. With 120 volunteers traveling from 4 countries, the 1000 Smiles Project has become a model of success for international collaboration between NGOs, businesses, governments and volunteers who are eager to explore the world and make a real difference in the lives of others. This model should be examined for replication by other international NGOs. Great Shape! puts a great focus and effort into sustainability by:

1. Educating over 8000 children about the importance of and proper way to care for your teeth.
2. Applying sealants on over 4,000 new primary molars.
3. Donating thousands of dollars of dental equipment and supplies to Jamaican dental staff.
4. Providing in-field training to Jamaican dental nurses and assistants.

Great Shape! has started several pilot projects that are expected to lead to great results.

- A uniforms project has been launched that very simply puts poor children most at risk back in school by purchasing a required school uniform for them. In 2007, with generous support of Judy and Tom Chambers and many other donors, we were able to sponsor some 200 kids.
- Great Shape! continues to partner with First Book to deliver free reading books to children in poor rural communities where reading literacy is often below 50%. Great Shape! is developing an expanded literacy program that will include reading literacy, computer donation and education, uniforms, teacher training, resources and more.
- Great Shape is developing a program for eye care. The program will be modeled after the 1000 Smiles project.

Fundraising

Great Shape! saw its annual revenues jump from just under \$25,000 in 2006 to over \$90,000 in 2007. Revenues come from two primary sources: the annual dinner party in Ashland, Oregon put on by the Board of Directors and administrative fees charged to volunteers to participate in projects in Jamaica.

Organizational Development

Great Shape! has seen important organizational achievements and improvements in 2007, including:

- Hiring a full time Executive Director, for the first time in its 20 year history. This great achievement is universally accepted as the necessary cornerstone to the non profit's continued success, growth and development.
- Implementation of new accounting procedures and software that match the growth and sophistication of the organization.
- Filing its first 990 IRS tax return.
- Having its first Jamaican intern, Carl Williams. Carl has provided greatly needed administrative support, been an excellent ambassador for the organization, while also learning a great deal about non profit management from every angle.
- Launched a new website with hundreds of donated hours of Brad and Lucinda Kay Adams.
- Produced two important videos about our work, again under the volunteer direction of Lucinda Kay.
- Improved technology including new hardware, software, networking and custom programming for volunteer registration.

Turning The Corner

Great Shape! faces very important challenges and questions in 2008. Careful strategic, financial and operational planning will help guide decisions to ensure we focus our time, efforts and resources properly to ensure viability in 2008 and beyond. Decisions must be made about program and organizational development, but all in the light of financial viability and organizational sustainability. Great Shape! must raise at least \$50,000 in new revenues without significantly increasing expenses in order to break even over the next 12 months.

Despite these challenges, there is very good reason for optimism considering the opportunities that exist for Great Shape! There is a great deal of good will still in the world and people are drawn to the positive energy of Great Shape! and its intention to make the world a better place. As Executive Director, I intend to make sure Great Shape fulfills that mission with passion and verve while growing the organization into stability for years to come.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wright
Executive Director, Great Shape! Inc



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