



HEALING HANDS
WORLDWIDE INC.

PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Virgin Islands -- It's no secret that health and wellness and supporting our community's youth remains a key concern for many. But in communities where income levels are low as families struggle to survive each day, the need becomes even greater.

As a well-respected oncologist practicing in the Caribbean since 2004, Jamaican-born and raised Dr. Erole McLean quickly realized the gaps in many uninsured patient's ability to pay for costly cancer treatment and decided to move to action, prompting her to establish, Healing Hands Worldwide, Inc. (HHW) in 2017.

Since then, Healing Hands Worldwide, Inc. a non-profit organization based in the U.S Virgin Islands, has continued to make a meaningful impact in the community by providing free cancer treatment to those most in need, as well as supporting high-achieving students in at-risk communities towards future success in Jamaica, where she and the organization's board continue to have close ties and see the opportunity for the greatest immediate impact based on need and existing local relationships.

According to The Jamaica Cancer Society (2019), "It is estimated that one in 21 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, which is the leading cancer, as well as the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Jamaican women." "I have always made it a priority to reach back to help," says Dr. McLean, who is often called upon to represent the medical community and share her expertise as a keynote speaker for conferences, workshops and governmental meetings. "As a medical practitioner, I am in a position to see first-hand the needs and challenges of patients who seek care after receiving what can be a devastating early breast cancer diagnosis with no foreseeable way to fund their care."

Collaborating with oncologist, Dr. Sheray N. Chin, who serves as the organizations on the ground contact at the University of the West Indies Cancer Clinic in Kingston, Jamaica, HHW has successfully assisted many patients fighting, early-stage breast cancer by donating a full course of free cancer treatment for each patient selected.

As an additional HHW support initiative, breaking barriers for high achieving students serves as another successful HHW program. A graduate of Bois Content Primary



School in St. Catherine, Jamaica, where her mother, Enid Raymond McLean, served as the school's principal for over 10 years, Dr. McLean always had a strong desire to offer support to high achieving students with the potential to do well.

As such, HHW proudly awards the Bois Content graduating valedictorian each year "The Enid Raymond McLean Award for Academic Excellence." The full, re-occurring academic scholarship, tapped to assist students as they prepare to enter high school, covers the cost of tuition, uniforms, books and supplies each year, for four years. Adds Dr. McLean: "I'm grateful to be in a place to assist so that they too can be better positioned to chart their very own course for success."

This year's recipient, Asonya Clarke, is excited to move forward to High school at St. Jago High School in St. Catherine, Jamaica with her eyes set on eventually obtaining her college degree. "Since my mom was unable to attend college due to the lack of funds, I have always wanted to make sure that I have the opportunity to do so," says 12-year-old Asonya Clarke. "I feel very proud of myself and I'm grateful for achieving this."

While the work done thus far continues to be highly impactful, securing lasting partnerships and support is key to the organizations continued forward movement, which will allow HHW to support many more women and children in need of the resources that HHW offers.

With a board and leadership team made up of passionate professionals with close ties to Jamaica either through birth or lineage, they not only care about making a meaningful impact in under-served communities, but in Jamaica, West Indies in particular. For Dr. McLean the reasons are clear: "When you reach certain milestones in your life, it behooves you to take a step back and recognize what led to your journey." She adds: "Impacting the global health landscape in such a tangible way, as well as helping to guide the trajectory of the lives of our young people is something that we as a team are truly passionate about and will always be a key part of HHW's legacy."

To donate to or partner with Healing Hands Worldwide, Inc. or for more information contact Karen Nelson-Hughes via email at: khughes@hhworldwide.org, via phone/text or Whatsapp at 1.340.626.5175 or via the HHW website at www.hhworldwide.org.

Photos:

Dr. Erole McLean (Healing Hands Worldwide, Inc. Founder) – File Photo

Asonya Clarke (2021 "Enid Raymond McLean Award for Academic Excellence" recipient) – File Photo

Healing Hands Worldwide Logo – File Image