

How can I serve?

This week in Jamaica, *we serve*. ***Child by child***, one soul at a time, *we serve*.

It all began with *one* child, my daughter Lexi, who was born deaf and given the gift of sound at 19 months with cochlear implants. We had to fight hard to serve Lexi, who was repeatedly misdiagnosed, and I knew then that I am ***called to serve all children*** with hearing loss.



Lexi Styling Up to Serve in Jamaica

Which brings us to Jamaica.

There is a village called Eden where deaf and mute children find ***hope***. Born outcasts in a socioeconomic climate that disregards them, these beautiful children of God are given a chance to learn at the Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf.

Eden is a peculiar name for the village. While the school symbolizes a promised land for children with virtually no educational or vocational opportunities, we find a community where basic human needs are unmet.

No running water. Starving students and staff. Dilapidated dormitories.

We came with a grand mission: ***to give sound and speech to the deaf and mute***. Equipped with 60 hearing aids donated by Phonak, testing equipment from Shoebox Audiometry and an amazing team of volunteer audiologists, teachers, mothers, and hardworking young people, *we came to serve* Jamaica's deaf children.

But first we had to feed them.

Wherever we see need, *we serve*. We did not plan on filling the school's pantries with \$3000 of groceries – this was not necessary on past trips – but these

students are starving. What use is sound when your stomach is too empty to learn?



Wholesale Shopping

With pantries stocked, we get to the heart of our mission. We **restore sound to the deaf**. We teach language and **life skills** so students can navigate their future. Jobs await the fifteen students who will graduate this year – jobs they could not keep without basic communication skills.



Restoring Sound and Speech, Child by Child

Our footprints on the island will fade away, so we must empower ongoing change. We meet with ENT surgeons of Montego Bay to lay the foundation for sustainable care. We ask, **how can we help YOU create a comprehensive system of hearing healthcare?**



*Planning Sustainable Hearing Healthcare
at Cornwall Regional Hospital*

This week in Jamaica, **we LOVE**.

Serving on a mission project is not about handouts and feeling good about you.

Serving on a mission project is about ***loving your fellow human so much*** that you hurt when he hurts. It requires all hands on deck – the hands of many with diverse talents and spiritual gifts. I am SO humbled by the team of volunteers who worked fearlessly and tirelessly *to serve* this week.



Jacob Serving with LOVE

How can I serve?

The answer echoes in Mother Theresa's famous words:

*Never worry about numbers.
Help one person at a time,
And always start with the person nearest you.*

Look around and you will find need. You do not have to travel to an island in the Caribbean. Open your front door. Step into your community. Start a love walk in your nook of the world. If you are lost, simply *start with the person nearest you.*

AND you can join us on a mission trip soon.

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Oh, the LOVE I have for Keddon