



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAMAICA MIAMI

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NEWSLETTER



This is a moment that calls for reflection, gratitude, and celebration on more than one front.

As Jamaica marks her 64th year of Independence, this newsletter goes out with the pride and patriotism that has defined every day of this mission. Sixty-four years of sovereignty. Sixty-four years of a small island nation standing tall on the world stage and earning the respect of nations far larger than her own. That Jamaican spirit, is exactly what this consulate has carried into every room, every relationship, and every act of service over the past seven years.

By now the news has reached you of my appointment to New York. That transition, and what it means for this newsletter, is what this inaugural issue is about.

What was built here was never the work of one person. Behind every concert, every clinic adopted, every repatriated national, every lecture series, every Hi-5 Run, every citizenship ceremony, and every broadcast of Link Up Live, there stood a small but mighty team. A team that carried the flag of Jamaica with professionalism, with heart, and with unwavering commitment.

And alongside that team, there was you - The Diaspora. The soul of this Mission. Seventeen clinics serve rural Jamaicans because of this community. Two thousand five hundred of our nationals came home safely during a pandemic because of this community. Forty million dollars flowed back to Jamaica when Melissa struck because of this community. You showed up. Every single time. Jamaica is stronger because of you, and that is not a sentiment. It is a fact.

What a committed diaspora, a small dedicated team, and a shared love of country can accomplish when moving together, that is the most enduring lesson of this tenure. And it is the most important thing being carried forward. This is the inaugural issue of Link Up Live. It launches here, with Miami, and it travels with the mission to New York. Wherever this post goes, this newsletter follows. Keeping you informed, connected, and engaged is a commitment that crosses borders. To Miami, to the Southern family across 13 states, and to the small but mighty team that made it all possible: it has been the honour of a professional lifetime.

Happy 64th Independence, Jamaica. One Love. One Heart. One Jamaica.

With pride, gratitude, and love for Jamaica,

R. Oliver Mair

Oliver Mair

Consul General of Jamaica, Miami | Consul General Designate, New York

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Two and a half years. It sounds brief on paper. But what took place within them, the crises navigated, the lives touched, the moments of genuine human connection, made this one of the most meaningful chapters of a professional life spent in service.

Serving at the Consulate General of Jamaica, Miami tested every skill and deepened every conviction. There were demanding periods, unexpected crises, and moments that required stepping far outside of comfort zones. And through every one of them, the mission remained clear: show up, serve with compassion, and represent Jamaica with integrity.

The most fulfilling work was always the most human. Jamaicans and others came through these doors in moments of real distress, carrying worry, uncertainty, and sometimes fear. Behind every passport, every emergency travel document, every consular inquiry, there was a person with a story that deserved empathy and professionalism in equal measure. That understanding shaped every interaction.

One moment stands as a particular reminder of what this work is truly about. A stranded Jamaican national in Houston, displaced by widespread disruptions from Spirit Airlines, needed help in circumstances where conventional policy offered no clear path forward. Working through networks, advocating creatively, and refusing to accept that nothing could be done, the situation was resolved. It was a quiet lesson that diplomacy is not only about policy. It is about compassion, humanity, and the willingness to find a way.

The relationships built across this tenure, with fellow diplomats, government agencies, international organizations, and the extraordinary Jamaican diaspora community, leave a lasting impression. Partnership and mutual respect are not diplomatic courtesies. They are the actual work.

To the staff of Consulate General of Jamaica, Miami, to Consul General Roderick Oliver Mair, and to this diaspora community: thank you for the trust, the growth, and the privilege. Representing Jamaica abroad has been both an honour and a responsibility held with the greatest of care.

Leaving with a full heart and a deepened passion for the work. This extraordinary chapter has only reinforced a commitment to service, to diplomacy, and to the extraordinary people who make it matter.

With gratitude and pride,
Lottalee Paisley



Members of the small but Mighty Miami Consulate Team

EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE – SOME MEMORIES

From October 3, 2018, the Consulate General of Jamaica, Miami became more than a diplomatic mission. It became a community anchor, a disaster response hub, a cultural stage, an investment gateway, and a home. What follows is the record of what this team and this diaspora built together across eight years.

Disaster Relief and Crisis Response

When disaster struck, this team and this diaspora answered without hesitation. Following Hurricane Melissa in October 2025, we coordinated over \$40M USD in relief support alongside Food for the Poor, World Central Kitchen, the Global Empowerment Mission, and a network of diaspora partners who gave generously and moved quickly. Together we produced the Stay Strong Jamaica Concert at the Hard Rock Hotel, raising \$400,000 USD, and co-facilitated the One Love Jamaica Gospel Concert, which raised an additional \$150,000 USD. This community did not just donate. It showed up.



The relationship with the Global Empowerment Mission became one of the most consequential partnerships of the tenure. **Following Hurricane Beryl, we facilitated GEM's entry into Jamaica, mobilized 4,000+ volunteers for Hurricane Melissa relief, and secured the MOU between GEM and ODPEM to establish a permanent GEM office in Jamaica.** That partnership generated \$17M USD in post-Beryl and Melissa support for the Jamaican people and laid the foundation for Caribbean-wide relief capacity.



When COVID-19 closed borders and stranded thousands of our nationals, this team did not close its doors. We housed, fed, and supported an estimated 2,500 stranded Jamaican nationals, coordinating food, shelter, telehealth, pastoral care, and hotel accommodations across 13 states. We donated laptops to children so education would not stop. We delivered medical supplies. We organized food drives for the communities that had welcomed us. We sourced and delivered meals. Every act was a choice to see people first.

Beyond the headline crises, this team maintained a quiet, consistent ministry of presence. We mobilized immediately during the Surfside Condominium collapse. We extended solidarity to Venezuela and other regional nations following deadly earthquakes. We conducted regular prison visits, shelter visits, and launched a Christmas Concert to put shoes on the feet of children in Jamaica. No part of this community was considered too small or too far to reach.



Health, Wellness and Medical Mission

Health was never just a programme for this team. It was a commitment made to our community and delivered on, year after year. Together, through the Jamaica Hi-5 Annual Reggae Run/Walk, the diaspora community put this Southern USA region on the map as the single largest contributor to the Adopt-A-Clinic initiative, facilitated by the National Healthcare Enhancement Foundation (NHEF) in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Seventeen clinics were adopted across rural Jamaica at JMD \$3M per clinic, six of them funded directly from annual 5K proceeds. Every kilometre run, every entry fee paid, every sponsorship secured went directly to health infrastructure for Jamaicans who needed it most.



Hi5 Run Walk in Miramar, FL

In 2026, a donation of \$20,000 worth of medical equipment was delivered to the Barrett Town Health Centre. A Day of Service was conducted at the newly renovated Catherine Hall and Barrett Town Health Centres in St. James, walking the halls together and seeing what collective investment made possible. Homes were built alongside Food for the Poor, housing families in St. Thomas, St. Elizabeth, and St. James. **An MOU was signed with UM Hospital and the Ministry of Health and Wellness to ensure diaspora health partnerships would endure beyond any single tenure.** And for over six consecutive years, weekly exercise classes and health-focused programming were provided to the diaspora community, because wellness was never just a programme. It was a practice.



Adopt A Clinic Handover of Donations



MOU Signing - MOHW - Dr. the Honorable Christopher Tufton & University of Miami

Education, Youth and Alumni Engagement

This team believed that the diaspora's greatest long-term investment in Jamaica was in its youth. Together with Jamaica's robust alumni associations across the Southern states, we facilitated educational donations that kept institutions resourced and students supported. **We signed a MOU with Miami Dade College for education and cultural exchange. We facilitated the landmark MOU between the University of Alabama and the University of the West Indies, with a specific focus on sickle cell disease research, a collaboration that bridges Caribbean and American academic institutions in service of Jamaican lives.**



In partnership with the Louise Bennett Coverley Heritage Council, we provided annual scholarships to the Edna Manley College for the Performing Arts and UWI Reggae Studies, investing in the next generation of Jamaican artists and thinkers. Across regional high schools and at Florida International University, this Consulate brought Jamaica's story directly to young people through guest lectures and career talks. Making young people a strategic priority was not a talking point. It was policy, in direct alignment with Jamaica's Vision 2030 agenda.





Cultural Diplomacy and the Arts

Culture was how this Mission kept Jamaica's heart beating in the diaspora. In 2023, we founded the Jamaica Brew Literary and Film Festival, the first of its kind in the diaspora, celebrating 15+ writers and filmmakers who brought Jamaican literary and film culture to a South Florida audience that embraced it fully. We established the Consul General Distinguished Lecture Series, a community forum, now in its 5th year and hosted at the Island Space Caribbean Museum, creating a standing platform for dialogue between the diaspora and Jamaica's most influential voices. We launched and sustain the annual Garvey and Reggae Symposium, now in its 5th year, honouring the legacy of National Hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey during Black History Month.



This team opened doors for Jamaican artists across the Southern States. We facilitated cultural exchange programs featuring the University Singers, the National Dance Theatre Company, Campion College, The Company, and ASHE. We hosted stage productions by Oliver Samuels and Patrick Brown. We opened gallery walls to Jamaican visual artists, supported reggae artists on tour, and ensured that at every major event, Jamaican stalwarts and community leaders were recognized in front of the audiences they had spent lifetimes building. We helped establish the Island Space Caribbean Museum as a diaspora cultural anchor, and we were part of bringing Reggae Sumfest to a global stage, including through the Taste of Sumfest Miami initiative.

And through it all, Consul General Mair was present. Where others may have seen socializing, there was always a strategy at work. Whether at an alumni association dinner, a Kingston College or St. George's gathering, an Alpha Academy event, or a black-tie gala, every room entered was an opportunity to build a partnership, deepen a relationship, and advance Jamaica's interests. That visibility was deliberate. And it translated directly into fundraising results, community mobilization, and alliances that made the work of this Mission possible at a scale no single office could have achieved alone.



Univesity Singers

Sports Diplomacy



Jamaica competes. And this team made sure that descendants of Jamaicans across the Southern states had the opportunity to carry that tradition forward. We fast-tracked Jamaican citizenship and passports for descendants of Jamaican nationals, enabling them to represent Jamaica on international stages in football, basketball, athletics, and taekwondo. The diaspora rallied behind the Reggae Girlz FIFA World Cup campaign, generating over \$50,000 USD in community support. We raised funds for multiple Jamaican sporting groups and organizations, because sports diplomacy is not just strategy. It is pride. It is legacy. It is Jamaica.



Economic Diplomacy and Investment



Economic diplomacy was never a sideline for this team. It was a core mission. Together with JAMPRO, we took Investment in Jamaica Road Shows to Atlanta, Houston, and Orlando, connecting diaspora capital directly to Jamaica's Stock Exchange, real estate, agriculture, and tourism sectors. We led trade delegations to Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, opened doors for Jamaican business expansion into U.S. markets, and facilitated the growth of companies like Connex, Juici Patties, Grocery List, Rainforest, and Best Dressed Chicken. We worked alongside the Jamaica Stock Exchange to connect diaspora investors to cross-border opportunities, hosted the Deed to Key Investment Conference to link diaspora capital to Jamaican real estate, and built a strategic marketing partnership with Salada that put Jamaican Coffee and Teas in front of a Southern diaspora audience hungry for home.



We showed up at FITCE, Florida Trade & Cultural Expo, and at major real estate and finance summits across the region, not just as attendees but as thought leaders making the case for Jamaica.



Talks between JAMPRO & Georgia Aquarium

Putting Jamaica on the World's Yachting Map | 2023–2025

What began in 2023 as a conversation about visibility became one of the most consequential economic diplomacy efforts of this tenure. Working in close collaboration with the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, this team set out to position the Jamaican flag as a premier registry for mega yachts. The South Florida maritime corridor, home to the world's largest boat show, became the launching pad.

The Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show became the Consulate's arena. Year after year, this team engaged directly with yacht owners, managers, brokers, and industry stakeholders, making the case for Jamaica, its registry, its seafarers, and its waters. The diaspora, the business community, and our government partners stood behind that effort. The result: today, more than 750 mega yachts proudly fly the Jamaican flag, generating substantial revenue for Jamaica through registration and related services. Beyond the economics, these vessels are also creating employment for Jamaican seafarers, directly contributing to the growth of the island's maritime workforce.



The relationships built with leading yacht management companies, charter operators, and South Florida industry leaders opened doors that extended well beyond registration. Jamaica began to be seen not only as a registry but as a preferred yachting destination, a vision this team worked deliberately to establish.

The defining milestone came at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show 2025, when for the first time in Jamaica's history, the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, the Caribbean Maritime University, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Port Authority of Jamaica jointly sponsored a single booth, presenting a cohesive and compelling vision of Jamaica's maritime capabilities and tourism offering to the world. That moment was the culmination of years of relationship-building, consistent presence, and a shared belief that Jamaica belongs at that table.



Consular Services

At the heart of every diplomatic mission is the work that does not make headlines: the passport renewed, the stranded national brought home, the citizen guided through a complex process with care and professionalism. This team committed to making those interactions worthy of the people they served. In February 2020, we inaugurated the Jamaica Citizenship Welcome Ceremony 'Back to My Roots', the first of its kind in Jamaica's consular network, now a quarterly cornerstone event. Citizenship applications grew 102% cumulatively over three fiscal years, reaching 921 in FY2026, the steepest growth of any Jamaican consular post in the Southern USA.

We did not wait for the community to come to us. We took the Consulate to the people, bringing consular services directly to Atlanta, Orlando, Tampa, and Miramar. We launched Link Up Live, a weekly community radio show streamed live on social media, so the diaspora always had a real-time connection to this office. We commissioned the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee 'Reduce the Numbers' in March 2022, building a coalition of NGOs, legal advocates, and community partners to protect our nationals. We hosted Caribbean Consular Corps events and consulted at every level of Jamaican national affairs. The commitment was always the same: serve this community as if every person walking through the door was family.



First "Back To My Roots" Citizenship Ceremony



That standard of service was reflected in the numbers. Internal customer service satisfaction scores rose from 2.6 to 4.4 over a two-year period, while the team fielded over 600 calls daily across 13 states. Those figures are not administrative statistics. They are a measure of trust built over time.

On the technology front, this Mission became the first in Jamaica's diplomatic network to deploy AI-powered services to assist consular staff in serving the community. We trained our team and our broader diaspora community on AI tools, free of charge, created JahNet, an AI engagement agent designed to connect nationals to the support they need, and launched a new Consulate website at <https://congenmiami.mfaft.gov.jm>. A curated diaspora business directory is coming soon. Stay connected to find out how to be included.



Government, Civic and Political Relations

One of the most enduring investments of this tenure was in our people. Every connection was built deliberately, consistently, and across every level of American governance. This team maintained active ties with 30+ elected officials of Jamaican descent, from Congressional representatives to mayors across major Southern cities, ensuring that Jamaica's interests and the diaspora's voice were never absent from the rooms where decisions were made. In 2019, this Consulate received the Keys to Broward County in recognition of outstanding civic leadership. In 2022, the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee recognized this office with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for exemplary leadership and community service.

Throughout the tenure, the consulate served as Deputy Dean of the Florida Diplomatic Corps, representing 60 nations, and as Dean of the South Florida Caribbean Consular Corps, keeping Jamaica at the table of regional diplomatic leadership. Honorary Chair roles at JAUSACC, JWOF, and JMOF kept this office close to the community organizations that do the daily work of diaspora life. These were not ceremonial titles. They were active commitments.



Members of the diplomatic Corp alongside Ministry Officials at the 11th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Holness with Consulate Officials during a visit to Miami.

Awards and Recognition

The recognition bestowed on this Mission over eight years reflects the work of an entire team and a generous diaspora community. Among the honours received: Keys to the city of Miramar and Lauderhill (August 2026), the honorary degree of Doctor of Ministry (Honoris Causa) from the University of Fort Lauderdale (May 2026); the IRAWMA Lifetime Achievement Award (2025); the Marcus Garvey Leadership Award from the Caribbean American Cultural Arts Foundation at the Captains of Industry Summit (2025); the Cultural Man of the Decade from the Louise Bennett Coverley Heritage Council (September 2025); Man of the Year, Caribbean News Weekly (2022); the Keys to Broward County (2019); a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (2022); and City of Lauderhill Recognition for Outstanding Leadership During the COVID-19 Pandemic (2021). These honours, more than 50 in total, belong to every person who made this Mission what it is.



LINK UP LIVE: BORN IN MIAMI, BOUND FOR NEW YORK

This is the inaugural issue of Link Up Live, and it was always meant to be more than a Miami newsletter.



It launches here, shared with the diaspora of the Southern United States, the 13 states that have been home to this Mission. And it travels. As Consul General Mair transitions to the post of Consul General in New York, Link Up Live transitions with him. This newsletter is not tied to a building or a zip code. It is tied to a commitment that the diaspora will always have a direct, consistent, personal connection to their Consul General.

SOME RECIPIENTS OF THE CONSUL GENERAL'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE





For our South Florida community, this newsletter will continue under the incoming Consul General as a standing commitment to the thousands of Jamaicans across the Southern States who have made this Mission what it is. For our New York community and all 33 states under that jurisdiction, including Bermuda and Puerto Rico, Link Up Live is coming to you. Stay subscribed. The connection does not end here. It expands.

This is what it looks like when a mission puts down roots deep enough that the work outlasts the moment. To nominate a diaspora member for a future feature, submit a story, or share an upcoming event, write to us at contactus@jamaicacgmiami.org.

THE CHARGE PASSES FORWARD

To whoever carries this charge next: know that you are stepping into something extraordinary. This diaspora across the 13 Southern States is vibrant, generous, resilient, and deeply in love with Jamaica. They have given everything to this Mission and they ask only one thing in return, that you show up for them the way they have shown up for Jamaica.

Every well wish and every prayer goes with the incoming Consul General. The foundation is solid, the community is ready, and the work ahead is worthy of the very best Jamaica has to offer. Godspeed.

HardRock Hotel and Casino, Hollywood, FL, celebrating Jamaica’s culture.





STAY CONNECTED

This consulate exists because of you, and for you. If you have a story idea, an event suggestion, or simply want to connect, our door is always open.

✉ contactus@jamaicacgmiami.org

☎ (305) 374-8431

🔗 *Join Link Up Live, our weekly community radio broadcast on social media*

🌐 *Visit us online: <https://congenmiami.mfaft.gov.jm> — and stay connected for the launch of our diaspora business directory, coming soon*

Until we meet again, stay proud, stay connected, and keep representing Jamaica with everything you have.



Oliver Mair

Consul General of Jamaica, Miami