



**SUSTAIN.**  
**CONNECT.**  
**GIVE BACK.**



2021 Impact Report



## From Our Founders:

Throughout the years, perseverance has been our compass, and we've worked - slowly and steadily - to create a **vision of hope and sustainability** for the future.

In difficult times, knowing what to do or how to help when everything seems upside down is not easy. But, as we shared needs in the community of Bluefields, Jamaica, **you responded repeatedly** with your support, generosity, and assistance.

**You delivered HOPE as a bright spot in times of great need;** not only to families who needed clean water at their doorstep, but also to children who needed teachers and school meals as they returned to in-person learning, and to people who needed opportunities to earn, while tourism - a main source of income in Jamaica - was non-existent due to travel restrictions.

Taking action towards a more sustainable and hopeful future by walking alongside the community of Bluefields, Jamaica, is what Jah Works is all about - and **we give thanks for you, our supporters, as the cornerstone of this important work.**

**'Walk Gud' (Stay Safe); One Love!**



Brandon Ward



Megan Smoot



T.J. Smoot

## Our Mission

We are an international nonprofit that connects sustainable community development with an impactful travel experience, in rural Jamaica.

## Our Beliefs

### **Relationships and diverse perspectives are our cornerstone.**

We build meaningful relationships with field partners, supporters, volunteers and travelers, rooted in mutual respect and love. Diverse thinking builds stronger communities, and we rely on different perspectives to creatively reach shared goals and strengthen connections.

### **Our work should drive sustainability and be culturally responsible.**

We partner with local leaders to implement projects to ensure real needs are met in a way that is community-led. Projects are selected based on need, but also on how well they will enable self-sustainability and independence in the future.

### **Your donations should be used efficiently and effectively.**

While there are unavoidable expenses to running a business, we operate purposefully to ensure we maximize your dollars going directly to our programs.



2009

## Beginning of something beautiful

In early August, 2009, founding members, T.J., Megan and Brandon, landed in Jamaica for the first time as a team. It was one of the hottest weeks on record, and at one point while they worked to install a new door at the home of a blind man, Brandon looked to the sky and said "God! Can you just turn on the AC for a sec!?" And, just like that, a stiff breeze began to blow, which brought about laughter and relief. Over the course of that trip and many more laughs, a friendship and mutual love and respect for Jamaica and all it has to offer, was born.

2009-17

## It was all a dream

As our connections with the Bluefields, Jamaica community and love for the people and place continued to grow over the years, so did the idea for Jah Works. As we continued to lead small groups into the community for learning and service, we knew we had something special. These formative years were preparing us for the adventure of a lifetime, and in early 2017 we achieved our dream of becoming a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

2017-19

## Time to grind

After officially launching Jah Works, Inc., we began to lay the foundation for the four programs we have in place today. These years were SO EXCITING and full of growth. Our home communities in the United States began to rally around the work we were doing. Jah Works was making a name for itself.

2020

## An uncertain future

On Tuesday, March 17th, the Jah Works team boarded a plane to return to the United States, as most countries around the world began to close their borders. As the months passed, the uncertainty about the future of Jah Works began to grow, but from this uncertainty sprung creative and inventive ideas for how to continue our important work. After a reflective year full of change, and with an optimistic outlook, Jah Works would be propelled into its most impactful year to date.

2021

## 'All tings irie' (Everything's good)

Ten years ago, our Clean Water & Sanitation projects dominated our focus and funding, and we continue to implement these projects today. As we began expanding alignment with three more of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, we have made tremendous progress in projects focused on Quality Education, Zero Hunger and Decent Work & Economic Growth, lending to a more diverse approach as we partner with the Bluefields community in their goals for sustainable community development.



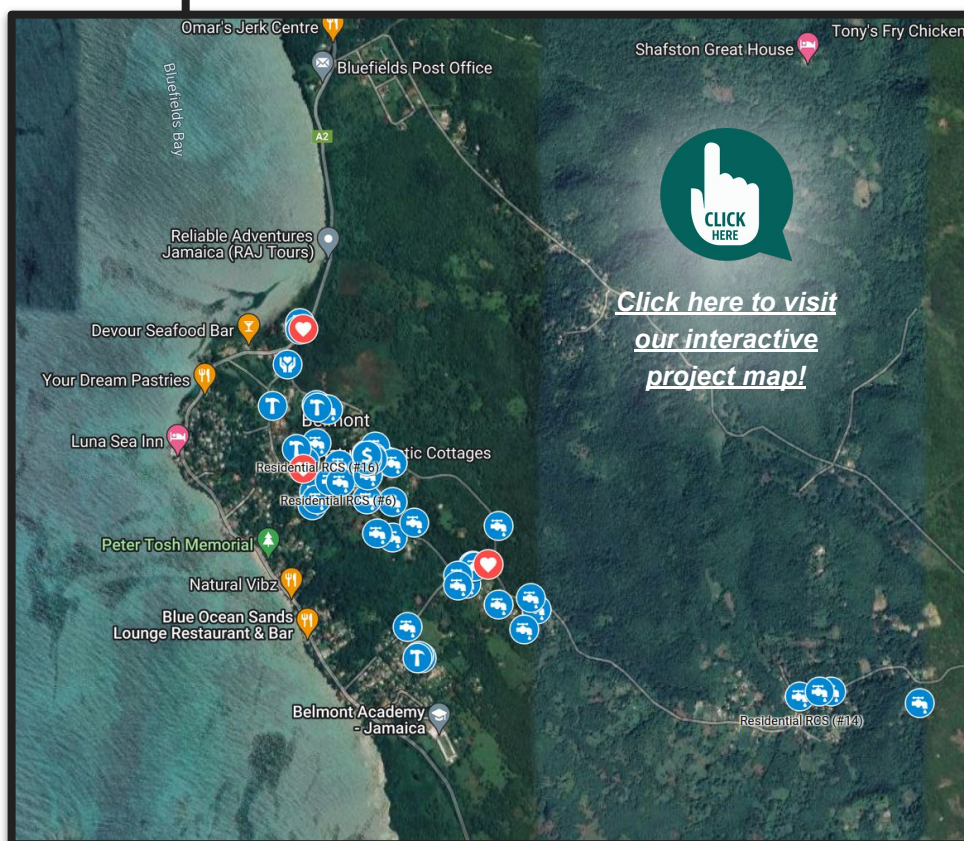
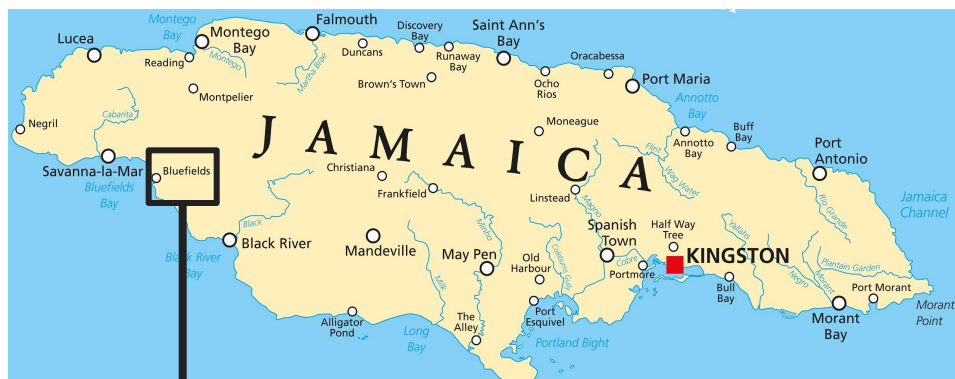
# Programs and Service Area

We take the lead from our Community Partners in rural Bluefields, Jamaica to implement projects which align with the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Projects are selected based on how well they align with one or more of these four areas, and whether they are in support of community goals.





“A system like this is gonna  
add SO MUCH into my life...  
gonna CHANGE my life...  
I don't have to carry water ANYMORE,  
'cause it was REALLY a struggle!”



# Clean Water & Sanitation

**Why It Matters:** Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right. Water is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems and education.

*Excerpted from United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Resources (Learn more at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment))*



- **Projects:** Installation of new rainwater harvesting systems throughout the Bluefields community; maintenance and cleaning of all existing systems; materials to complete bathroom.
- **Beneficiaries:** Two families received new rainwater systems, 46 families benefited from maintenance checks and deep cleaning of existing systems, and a blind man gained access to having an indoor bathroom at his home.
- **Funded:** \$5,544

## Field Notes:

Forty-six existing systems, installed from 2015-2020, were checked for any maintenance issues. Some were repaired, and a handful were upgraded with new filters.

All systems were also deep-cleaned where needed and education was provided to owners about how to keep systems clean and in good working order for years to come.

Two new systems were also completed at the end of the year, bringing clean water to the doorstep of multiple adults and children.

Behind the scenes, we streamlined the installation and maintenance process to be as efficient as possible in our work.

For each installation, we also achieve progress in our Decent Work program, as installation jobs are created for four individuals.



**1,200 gallons:** NEW collection capacity  
(2 new systems added)

**34,900 gallons:** Total collection capacity  
(48 total systems)



# Quality Education

**Why It Matters:** Education enables upward socioeconomic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty. Education helps reduce inequalities and reach gender equality and is crucial to fostering tolerance and more peaceful societies.

*Excerpted from United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Resources (Learn more at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment))*



- **Projects:** Fundraising campaign to bring two new teachers to Bluefields Basic School; Upgrade to school solar power system.
- **Beneficiaries:** Children and the staff of the Bluefields Basic School
- **Funded:** \$15,085

## Field Notes:

The Bluefields Basic School provides early childhood education to ages 3-5. We partnered with the School, the Bluefields community, the Canadian-Jamaican Medical Assistance Society (CJMAS) and many others who donated their time and dollars to ensure the School could hire two new teachers as students returned to in-person learning at the end of 2021.

Prior to this campaign, the Principal was the only teacher the Jamaican government paid to teach. Because of the show of support and this funding effort, the Jamaican government will also fund one of the teacher's salaries for years to come, removing the burden of paying these salaries from the parents and the community.

The Bluefields Basic School has had a solar power system for many years, and strives to be independent and off-grid, so that the maximum expenses can be spent on each child's education, instead of utilities. The batteries in this solar power system were at their end-of-life - and were lead. We replaced the old lead batteries with long-lasting and low-maintenance lithium batteries that will power the school into the future.



[Bonus Video! Virtual School Tour with Principal Joy](#)



# Zero Hunger

**Why It Matters:** Extreme hunger and malnutrition remains a barrier to sustainable development and creates a trap from which people cannot easily escape. Hunger and malnutrition mean less productive individuals, who are more prone to disease and thus often unable to earn more and improve their livelihoods.

*Excerpted from United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Resources (Learn more at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment))*



- **Projects:** Emergency Food Relief; School Nutrition Grant
- **Beneficiaries:** Children and staff of the Bluefields Basic School and elderly and disabled citizens of the Bluefields community.
- **Funded:** \$1,535

## Field Notes:

On behalf of the Bluefields Basic School, we secured a \$6,000 (USD) grant from the Evelyn E. and Richard J. Gunst Foundation, to support the School's childhood nutrition program.

These funds will be disbursed throughout the 2021-2022 school year to purchase fruits, vegetables and other food staples to ensure the children have the "fuel" to learn while at school.

Funds will also help subsidize cooking gas and cook's salaries - the necessary, but sometimes forgotten work and materials needed to provide these meals. In other words, this funding provides healthy food for the children, AND 'Decent Work' for two women in the community who prepare these nutritious meals.

Additionally, early in 2021, we partnered with the Bluefields Organic Fruit, Vegetables, Herbs, Tours & Farm Stay, to bring emergency food relief of healthy, locally-grown food to those in need during the pandemic.



# Decent Work & Economic Growth

**Why It Matters:** Decent work means opportunities for everyone to get work that is productive and delivers a fair income, social protection for families, and better prospects for personal development and social integration. A lack of these opportunities leads to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress. Sustained and inclusive economic growth can drive progress, create decent jobs for all and improve living standards.

*Excerpted from United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Resources (Learn more at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment))*



- **Projects:** Bluefields Community Center Renovation, and others
- **Beneficiaries:** Eight Bluefields community members directly provided with paid work opportunities in project management, construction, administrative, education and food service.
- **Funded:** \$14,221

## Field Notes:

With the leadership and partnership of the Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society (BBFFS) and the Bluefields People's Community Association (BPCA), we began Phase 1 of a strategic, long-term project to revitalize the Bluefields Community Center.

This project's goals are to enable the Center to be used as an event rental facility, generating enough revenue to become fully self-sustainable and provide jobs in the events industry (i.e. planning, food service, travel, music, and more).

This phase, completed in November, fixed drainage issues, rebuilt the landscaping beds and paths, and refurbished two existing gazebos on the property.

Stay tuned for more as this project continues into 2022!

*As noted, other program areas also lend to job creation; details of which are outlined in those program's field notes.*





# Partners in Sustainability

We couldn't do this important work without our partners. We place a high value on the **long-standing relationships** we've built over the years, and believe that everyone has the potential to pitch in and do good.



**Bluefields Community Partner Organizations** help us align our work to their vision and goals for the Bluefields community, identify program beneficiaries and lead projects to completion in the field.

- Bluefields People's Community Association (BPCA)
- Bluefields Basic School
- Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society (BBFFS)



**Business Partners** support us with expertise in rainwater harvesting, travel logistics, business strategy and growth, and more.

- [Reliable Adventures Jamaica](#)
- [Bluefields Organic Farm](#)
- [RainHarvest Systems](#)
- [D4 Concepts, LLC](#)
- [Launch Greensboro](#)



**Donors** financially sustain our programs, by giving in many different ways. Donations came to us via PayPal, check, Facebook, GoFundMe, and company match programs. ***A big shout out to our Cornerstone Donors, who give on a monthly basis to sustain this work!***



**Volunteers** gave us their time and many talents to help fundraise, apply for grants, and research topics important to our programs. ***Almost 800 hours of volunteer time was donated in 2021!***



**Travelers** bring sustainable community-based tourism dollars into Bluefields, with an opportunity to give back during their stay. While travel is (still) on hold for now, we're hopeful that soon we can restart our travel program and get "Back to Bluefields".

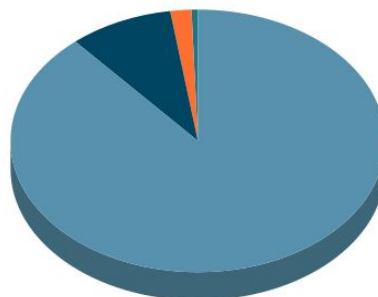
# Our Financials

## 2021 Revenue

Total: \$66,764 (+381% YOY)

- Individual Donations (89%)
- Grants (9%)
- Business Contributions (1.8%)
- Indirect Support, e.g., AmazonSmile and Other (0.5%)

} **\$35 average donation!**

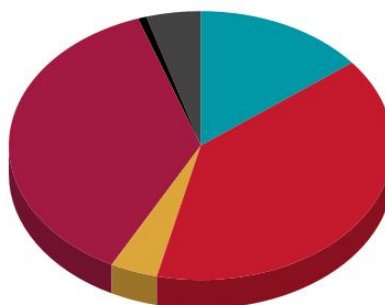


## 2021 Expense

Total: \$38,427 (+180% YOY)

- Clean Water Program (14%)
- Quality Education Program (39%)
- Zero Hunger Program (4%)
- Decent Work Program (37%)
- Fundraising Expenses (1%)
- Administrative Expenses (5%)

} **94%\* to programs!**



\*Our goal is for 85% or more of every dollar donated be allocated to program expenses.



# We're Looking Forward To:



- Partnering with small groups of leisure and educational travelers, to include Jah Works community service projects in their 2023+ Jamaica travel plans.



- Installing one new rainwater catchment system per month, providing 650 gallons of clean water to a family, and also providing 3 days of paid work to the installation team.



- Launching a grant program, focused on funding revenue-generating, sustainable community development projects in the areas of small business, agriculture, education, and more.



- Continuing to lay the foundation to substantially increase our impact in the coming years, with a \$250K revenue goal in 2025.

## Donate Today and Make a Sustainable Impact!

Donate online at [www.JahWorksExperience.org](http://www.JahWorksExperience.org) and consider becoming a sustaining Cornerstone Member by giving monthly. You may be able to double your donation by submitting a corporate donation matching form through your employer!

We invite potential volunteers or travelers who want to give back to email us at [JahWorksExperience@gmail.com](mailto:JahWorksExperience@gmail.com); we'll work with you on the best fit for what's needed most.