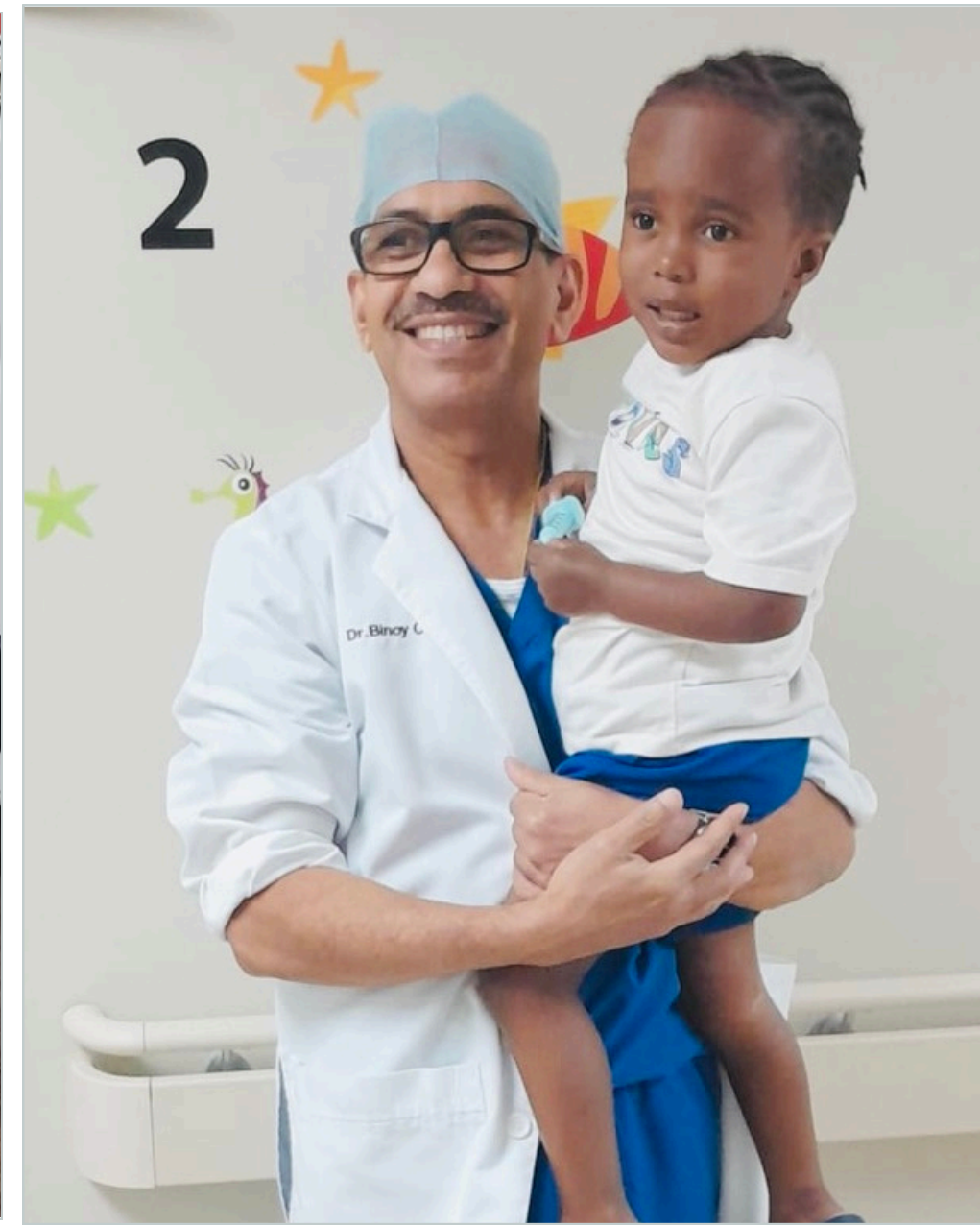




Pediatric Assistance League of St. Kitts & Nevis  
**Impact Report**  
**35 Years of Helping Sick Kids 2024**



**55**

**Sick Children from St. Kitts & Nevis  
Received Assistance from PALS in 2024**



- 4 children required URGENT LIFESAVING TREATMENT OVERSEAS.
- 13 children required LIFE CHANGING OVERSEAS SURGERY.
- 10 children required SPECIALIZED PEDIATRIC CARE OVERSEAS.
- 5 children required testing, monitoring and/or ongoing assistance.
- 11 children required follow ups from previous overseas surgeries.
- 12 children were newly diagnosed and scheduled for surgery in 2025.

**PALS PARTNER CHARITIES & TREATING HOSPITALS 2024**

WORLD PEDIATRIC PROJECT  
HEALTH CITY CAYMAN ISLANDS  
NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MIAMI  
BUSTAMANTE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN  
ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL BARBADOS  
SHRINER'S HOSPITAL  
TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL  
HEALING THE CHILDREN  
BONES & JOINTS SURGERY CLINIC



PALS is a non profit pediatric charity committed to helping sick children of St. Kitts and Nevis access essentially needed overseas medical care. PALS assists with diagnostics costs, finding an accepting hospital, medical costs, travel, housing, food & logistics.  
*Every Dollar Makes a Difference in a Sick Child's Life.*



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# Spotlight on our PALS Children

## HAZIEK: 9 years old, Shark Bite

In September 2024, nine year old Haziak from St. Kitts sustained severe injuries to his left arm from a suspected shark bite while swimming in shallow waters at the beach. The extensive damage to his arm and wound infection required overseas medical treatment. Haziak was transferred to the Bones & Joints Surgery Clinic in Trinidad where he underwent Vacuum Assisted Closure (VAC) of the wound, exploratory surgery and skin grafting surgery.

Haziak has returned to St. Kitts as he undergoes physical therapy and back with his friends at school while his wound heals from this first phase of treatment. Extensive future treatment including nerve, vascular and muscle tendon reconstructive surgery will be required in the near future at Nicklaus Children's Hospital Miami.



## DUJON: 3 years old, Heart Surgery

Three year old Dujon from St. Kitts was first treated with a ductal stenting at Health City Cayman in 2023 for a heart condition. While the cardiac surgeons knew this was a temporary measure, they wanted little Dujon to grow older and stronger before more invasive treatment. In Nov 2024, Dujon underwent a Tetralogy of Fallot Repair heart surgery. Although Dujon had a few setbacks in recovery, he is growing stronger each day.



## ROMARION: 2 years old, Heart Surgery

Two year old Romarion Smithen from Nevis was first diagnosed with a congenital heart condition in 2023. PALS assisted Romarion with a balloon coarctoplasty at Health City Cayman with the understanding that further surgeries would be required. In Nov 2024, Romarion underwent a next heart surgery, Coarctation of the aorta, aneurysm of aorta & arch repair. Little Romarion is doing well and he will be monitored with regular check ups.

***\*\*It was a coincidence that these two little boys were scheduled for heart surgeries - in 2023 & 2024 - at the same time. But this was a blessing for the mothers who supported each other & for the two little boys who have grown to be the best of friends.***

## DAWANEY HICKS: 17 years old. Osteogenesis Imperfecta



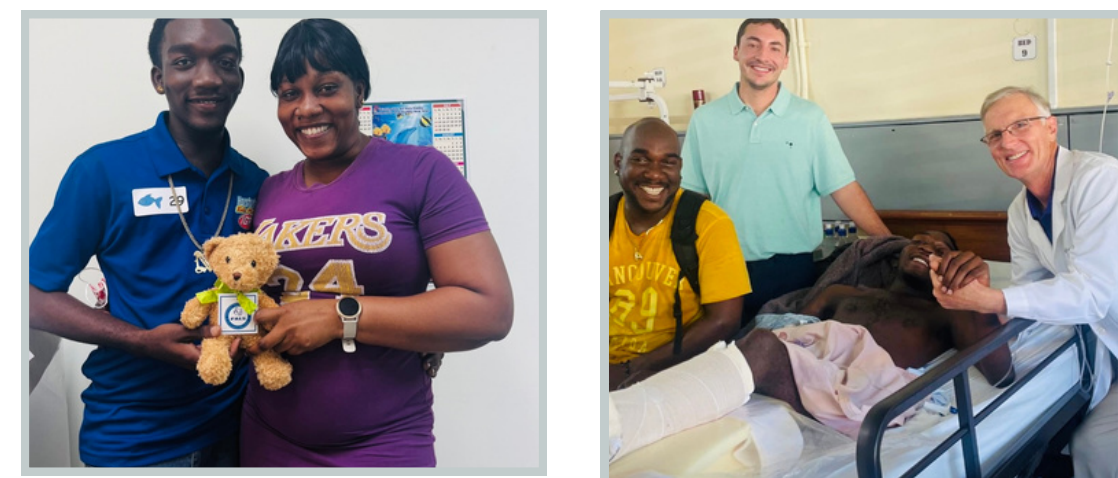
17 year old Dawaney from Nevis was accepted by World Pediatric for treatment at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas for surgery on his legs due to his medical condition - osteogenesis imperfecta. Dawaney has been in a wheelchair for many years living with pain due to his condition.

While there was no guarantee that Dawaney would walk after surgery, the surgeons goal was to significantly reduce the daily severe pain he lived with. Over the six months, Dawaney had seven complex surgeries on his two legs along with extensive physical therapy.

And through every difficult surgery and rigorous therapy, Dawaney never lost his smile or his goal to one day walk again. He continues to be an inspiration to everyone who meets him. Dawaney is currently back in Nevis continuing with his physical therapy and growing stronger every day. He is grateful to be pain free and continues to work hard in his physical therapy with a positive attitude.



## NYKAI: 18 years old, Orthopedic Surgery



## I-MANI: 4 years old, Urology Surgery



## ZARIAH: 18 years old, Spinal Surgery





# Other PALS Initiatives in 2024

## BRINGING ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC CARE TO ST KITTS & NEVIS



In February 2024, PALS held its first telehealth conference hosted by World Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Charles Goldfarb of Shriner's Hospital with support from St. Kitts Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Duane Hendrickson. This clinic was attended by 8 children with mobility issues with upper extremities (finger, hand, arm, elbow, shoulder). Five of the children were accepted for surgery overseas in May 2024.

In this new world of medical technology, this clinic is a new beginning to collaborative diagnostic care between our medical specialists in the Federation and our overseas Pediatric Specialists to improve the access of advanced pediatric care for our children.



### ORTHOPEDIC DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC



In February, PALS also hosted a in-person World Pediatric Orthopedic Clinic at JNF Hospital in St. Kitts led by Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Gordon of St. Louis Children's Hospital & Shriner's Hospital who was accompanied by Shriner's Pediatric Orthopedic Nurse Melissa Eagan, Pediatric Physical Therapist Abby Marcouiller & Orthotist Joe Gordon.

- 19 children from St. Kitts and Nevis were evaluated.
- 3 children referred to US for complex orthopedic surgeries
- 3 children referred for World Pediatric surgeries regionally
- 8 children require follow ups in one year with many noted for surgeries in the future as they get a bit older.
- Several children were provided with individualized physical therapy plans by the Pediatric Physical Therapist.
- The Pediatric Orthotist provided essential medical support equipment for our children such as boots for club feet, shoe inserts, medical knee braces and more.



### ADVANCED NEONATAL TRAINING

PALS joined World Pediatric in hosting a successful week long Advanced Neonatal Training clinic in St. Kitts & Nevis. Led by Dr. Clyde Cave, a leading Consultant Neonatologist and two Neonatal Pediatric Specialist nurses from Barbados along with Neonatal Physician Assistant Sue Ameiss of Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis.

More than 25 nurses and doctors from St. Kitts & Nevis participated in this extremely hands-on and informative training program that provided the successful participants with certification credit.

This is an ongoing initiative to provide up-to-date training for our local pediatric team who are responsible for our youngest and most vulnerable patients.





# Community Contributions

## COMPANIES GIVING BACK TO OUR CHILDREN IN ST. KITTS & NEVIS



PALS is pleased to have partnered with the Caribbean Destination Management Company Sunlinc to provide visiting overseas companies to St. Kitts and Nevis with the opportunity to donate to our Pediatric community as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility Program. Almost 40 cribs, change tables, mattress, sheets, diapers and wipes that were donated to our Hospitals, Community Clinics and Government Nurseries as well as 90 baby bags filled with bottles, wipes, sleepers and other baby items that were distributed to expectant mothers in the Federation.



## THE PALS BEARS: Bringing Smiles to Our Sick Kids in St. Kitts & Nevis

A hospital can be a scary place for any child so the PALS team hopes to bring a little comfort to our little ones with the gift of a PALS bear. In 2024, the PALS team shared PALS bears and other gifts on different occasions throughout the year.



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND BIG HEARTS.  
EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR SICK CHILDREN**

### Platinum Donors

**RAMS Trading Ltd. Delisle Walwyn & Co Ltd. SL Horsford & Co Ltd. Sunlinc**

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**Harper's Office Depot SOL EC Ltd. BOA Architects Spice Mill Restaurant**

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### Other PALS Supporters:

**Blue Water Safaris \* interCaribbean Airways \* Four Seasons Resort Nevis \* AquaMax Adventures \* Park Hyatt St. Kitts \* Palm Island Resort \* WINAIR \* Galley Bay Resort & Spa \* Vallie's Tent Rentals \* SL Stage Lighting \* Golden Rock Inn \* St. Kitts Marriott Resort \* Funky Monkey Tours \* Sunset Reef \* Hibiscus Rum \* Old Road Rum \* Banana's Restaurant \* L'Escale \* Le Salon \* Orchid Bay Beach House \* SceneKitts \* Coconut Farm \* Oualie Beach Resort \* Le Sommelier's \* Corks & Screws \* Yummies by Yanie \* Leeward Island Charters \* Rituals Sushi \* Serendipity Restaurant \* The Chop Shop \* Karibhana \* Lotus Thai Bistro \* Surf Restaurant \* KC5 \* Dreamy Decor \* La Vita Del Gelato \* Beauty Inside Out \* Luna Restaurant \* Sunshine's Restaurant \* Poinciana's Restaurant \* Coconut Grove \* Indian Summer \* Dreamy Decor \* Sweet & Savory \* Palm Court Gardens & Restaurant \* Turtle Time Beach Bar \* Digicel \* Mount Nevis Hotel \* The Hermitage Inn \* KayanJet \* Island Roaster's Coffee Company \* Harvest Hideaway \* Latin House \* Barefoot Beach Bar \* Buddha Bar \* Bobsy's Super Wings N Tings \* Soleon Art \* Royal Logistics \* GVision Photography \* St. Kitts Nevis National Bank \* Tito's Vodka \* Pizza Boys & many generous individuals.**

