

Following an invitation from the Saint Lucia Cancer Society, our association hopped on a boat on 12th July and embarked on a journey to meet with the patients, volunteers and caregivers of Piton Island. A meeting that literally touched us in more ways than one!

The Saint Lucia Cancer Society

The moment the email from the new president, Tamara Remy, oncology surgeon in Saint Lucia landed in our inbox, inviting us to participate in the Carnival of Saint Lucia to raise awareness of cancer: Of course we said 'yes'! Raising awareness among as many people as possible is one of our main goals.

The Saint Lucia Cancer Society is an association that will soon be celebrating its 30th birthday and that accompanies women and men affected by cancer. Tamara tells us more: "We do a lot of prevention and outreach among the general public, we also support people affected by cancer and their families during their care. We have over a hundred members. "

First carnival: Goal 100% achieved

It was a challenge for the Saint Lucia Cancer Society, to organize this unprecedented awareness campaign in just a few months. Upon the advice of a mutual friend, Yasmine Walcott, who told them about the Amazone carnival in Martinique, Tamara and her entire team embarked on this new form of communication and prevention, "Jump for the cause".

The goal was clear, to take advantage of this momentous moment in the life of Saint Lucians to teach them the actions that save! Each T-shirt colour matched a type of cancer, and on the back: "Do some sport" , "Do your mammo", "Touch your boobs" "Protect your skin" "Eat healthy" "Jump for the cause "... Tens of messages displayed on the t-shirts... pink, fuchsia, turquoise, purple, orange, green..!

A dozen members of Amazones made the trip, and on D-day, we were beyond eager to join the team. Under the wonderful sun of Saint Lucia, we wined, got to know each other, jumped and fought for the cause. Not to mention the fact that the team was welcomed so beautifully, as explained by Emmanuelle, new member of Amazons: "I particularly want to thank the Saint Lucia Cancer Society, Dr. Tamara Remy, and all these adorable and determined women who opened their doors to us during this intense and inspiring experience".

Sisterhood, Sorority

To meet the Amazonas of Saint Lucia, our sisters, and jumping to the rhythm of this occasion was already a real joy but the meeting organized the next day on the Saint Lucia Cancer Society premises was the best part of our trip. For nearly two hours, mixing English, Creole and French, we saw ourselves in each other, listened and supported one another.

We shared our journeys, our words, gazed into each other's eyes, told our stories and despite the different geographical places, we were so similar. We also spoke at length about the difficulties in accessing care in Saint Lucia, where treatments are not covered by the government as is the case in France. "Some of my patients tell me they'd rather not know that they're sick because they can't afford treatment. Each stage of the cancer care journey is very expensive" laments Tamara.

We left each other after sharing common projects, enriched by the experiences of both our associations. Heart-shaped cushions, Rose and Amazonas magazines were of course part of the trip, and an English-speaking Amazonas? Why not? We're thinking about it!

An emotional event that will pave the way for many others because our association is in solidarity with the Amazonas wherever they are, as mentioned by Odile, member of the team: "This was a huge success as far as I'm concerned, meeting our Saint Lucia sisters, sharing, planning common actions, giving meaning to the regional 'medical' cooperation".

To conclude we'll just steal this line from one of the Saint Lucia Amazonas as we left them, who replied to the "We love you" from our president, with "We love you more". What can we say? The lanmou cooperation is certainly working!

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