

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8 -- Tel. No. 416-912-6814

Website: <http://www.gcccanada.org> Email: info@gcccanada.org

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001



VOLUME 41

June 2011

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VOLUNTEERS – THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Five members of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. were amongst other recipients of various organizations, who were recognized by the Ontario Government for generously contributing their time as volunteers in Ontario.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards are an important way to recognize volunteers who have provided service over many years by helping to build safe, caring and vital communities, and by donating their time to help others. These awards are given to people who volunteer their time to a single organization for several years.

Below is the MPP for Scarborough-Rouge River along with GCC members who were honored for their services at the 2011 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards held on March 27, 2011.



L-R: Joseph Castanheiro (25 years) Anne Marie Reigber (25 years) Desmond De Barros (25 years) Elizabeth Abdool (25 years) Kumar Singh (10 years) and Bas Ramkissoon, MPP for Scarborough-Rouge River

Volunteers play a very important role in our quality of life. GCC offers many opportunities for interested individuals who would like to become part of its volunteer team. If you enjoy helping others, you may want to join our several standing committees. These committees meet as needed, to give consideration to matters pertaining to the organization; plan upcoming initiatives including our four yearly major fundraising events; and provide recommendations and direction that are consistent with the organization's mission to get involved. There are many ways you can be involved -- please do.

For information about the various committees, kindly contact Elizabeth Abdool (President) 416-912-6814.

OUR MISSION

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit charitable organization, registered in Canada, dedicated to providing aid and assistance to Guyanese organizations, individuals and others in need

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2011-2012

OFFICERS

President Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Vice President Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Secretary Bruce Williams 416-740-9328	Treasurer Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956
------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------

DIRECTORS

Anne Marie Reigber 416-755-6958	Rahana Khan 416-282-3110	Michael Gonsalves 416-420-0565	Karen Heifa 416-287-2526	Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883
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HONORARY DIRECTOR

Desmond De Barros

905-837-0135

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Joan De Barros

905-837-0135

ASSISTANT TO TREASURER

Jivanne Foster

905-420-9326

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

'THE BEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO'

I have now completed two (2) years as President of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and am honoured and humbled to have been re-elected for another term. As President my duties entail representing and co-ordinating the hard work done by good people made up of our Directors, Members, Volunteers and Supporters.

In the past, our Newsletters were issued in the months of October and May. However, it was realized that in the May issue we always missed including the list of our Board of Directors for the upcoming July to June fiscal year by a few weeks which meant that the list was out-of-date from June through to our October issue each year. Therefore, it has been decided that this time around and future issues usually issued in May will be issued in the month of June which would include the Board of Directors elected at our Annual General Meetings which are always held in May, and we will continue to produce our October issue as usual. We are sure you will find this change an improvement.

During the past fiscal year two (2) Directors resigned from the Board:

- Phillip Gulab who has been a Director of our organization for 16 years - from 1994 to 2010 ... and before that he was a very active member who was well known for his delicious Mauby. Best Wishes go to Phillip and a BIG thank you for all his hard work over the years from all at GCC.
- Allison Caldeira was a new member who willingly agreed to be our Secretary but who found it necessary to resign before the year was out. Thanks to Allison for coming forward to assist us.

It was therefore necessary for the Board of Directors to appoint two (2) replacements for the remaining of the fiscal year. Thanks to Anne Marie Reigber and Dexter Gonsalves for filling in as Directors for this period. They certainly proved to be of immense help to our organization with their ideas and hard work. Also, we would like to say a very special thanks to Dennis Choy who, reluctantly, accepted the position of Secretary in order to enable our organization to carry on with minimum disruption.

Our New Board of Directors – 2011-2012

At our Annual General Meeting held on May 11, 2011, the following were elected Directors: in alphabetical order:

Abdool	Elizabeth
Castanheiro	Joe
Gonsalves	Dexter
Gonsalves	Mike
Heifa	Karen
Khan	Rahana
Reigber	Anne Marie
Singh	Kumar
Williams	Bruce

Dennis Choy decided not to stand for re-election. On behalf of everyone connected with GCC ... a BIG THANK YOU to Dennis for all his hard work while on the Board. We look forward to his continued assistance with the documentation of our shipments to Guyana...PLUS!

During the past year Desmond deBarros was appointed Honorary Director, attends most of our Directors' Meetings and continues to share his knowledge and experience to the benefit of GCC.

Over the past couple of years GCC has been looking for a packing facility that would enable our packing activities to expand to more

frequent packing sessions. Since October 1999 we capitalized on the kindness of Lauren Harry in the use of her home, garage and backyard at 10 Budworth. *This address was the Packing Headquarters for GCC for over ten (10) years.* In November 2010, we were able to rent a room at Century 21 on Sheppard Avenue which makes it possible for us to have year-round packing --- several days a week! It is hoped that we will be able to get additional packing volunteers since packing can be done several days other than Thursdays which was the only day assigned for packing in the past - except when we were able to organize 'pack-attacks'. **Later in this Newsletter an appeal will appear for volunteers on other days. PLEASE contact us if you can help.** Remember - shipping much needed items to the orphanages, hospitals and the less fortunate in Guyana is our primary goal. **Our sincere thanks go to Sr. H. for the generous use of her home and property for so many years.**

Fundraising is a MUST for GCC. Without our Food & Bake Sale and our dances - we would not be able to perform our mission. If it were not for our supporters there would be no Guyana Christian Charities. Thanks to everyone - we continue to meet our objectives.

Each time I write this message for our Newsletters there always seem to be so much more I could and should say but ... space does not allow.

If you would like to get information on any matter which is not contained in this message - please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors.

Sincerely and God bless you all,

Elizabeth Abdool

President

CONGRATULATIONS...

What a wonderful celebration - **100 years old!** Alice Fernandes, an adopted Guyanese through her marriage to Gabriel Fernandes, was, along with her husband, a very active and participative supporter of Guyana Christian Charities. Our heartfelt congratulations go to her on attaining the rare celebration of her 100th Birthday. God bless you Alice!"

We are pleased to express our Congratulations to Desmond and Joan deBarros on their 60th Wedding Anniversary! This achievement is quite a mile-stone. Desmond and Joan both served as Directors of Guyana Christian Charities in the positions of President (Des) and Secretary & Vice President (Joan), and are still looked upon as pillars of our organization. "May God bless you both!

Blessed is he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth ~ *Psalms 41:1-2* ~

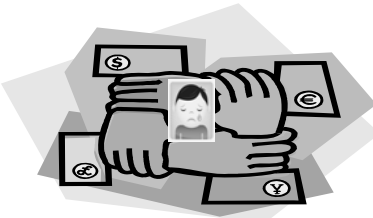
Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q. What are the names of some of Guyana's highest mountains?

A. Some of Guyana's highest mountains are Mount Ayanganna (2,042 metres / 6,699 feet), Monte Caburai (1,465 metres / 4,806 feet) and Mount Roraima (2,810 metres / 9,219 feet the highest mountain in Guyana) on the Brazil-Guyana-Venezuela tripoint border, part of the Pakaraima range. Mount Roraima and Guyana's table-top mountains (tepui) are said to have been the inspiration for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1912 novel *The Lost World*.

COMPASSION CONNECTION
RUIVELDT CHILDREN'S
HOME & CARE CENTRE

Email by: Vivian Carlson



In Guyana they have a phrase when talking about a child that wants all the attention. They would tell the child: "*You showing off yourself!*" In recent days I would like to say that God "*showed off himself*" for an orphan boy in distress. Subsequently, God used this orphan boy to make Himself known to **some strangers who simply responded out of compassion.** Compassion is defined as "the deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it." It was this virtue that united strangers and through a series of connections God did more than all of us could ever imagine.

The first two strangers (Vivian and Maria) were friends and traveled to Guyana as consultants with a local hospital. Both are pediatric specialists in their respective fields and both love Guyana. One of their consultations was with a child from RCHCC. Their consultation confirmed the local doctor's diagnosis of a debilitating muscular disease and it was not an easy diagnosis to swallow. The pediatric physical therapist, told us that he would need a walker soon. After we left compassion led her to personally hunt around the hospital looking for something that would work.

The third stranger comes into the picture the next day when I stop by Charlotte Street Wesleyan Church. One of the Pastors of the church calls my name as I am about to leave and tells me she wants me to meet someone. The lady I meet is a Guyanese firecracker who everyone calls Sister H – who is a member of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC). She has already been in the country for six weeks and we connect in her final week. I am led into the basement of the church as she shows me the work of her established non-profit ministry in Toronto Canada. She lives abroad but her compassion swells larger than life for some of the neediest people living in Guyana. As we talk she asks what I need for Plastic City. She asks what RCHCC would need. Then as casually as she shows me a brand new pair of shoes she points to a walker and asks if I know anyone who can use it. I cannot believe my eyes! "Absolutely!" I exclaim with a "whoa" of praise.

That evening the two consultants, Vivian and Maria, see it and cannot believe their eyes either! God has totally *showed off himself*, but the show is not over! Maria tells me about all the features of the walker that make it perfect for our boy. As we all try to gather ourselves in the weight of this moment, Maria looks at me and tells me how much this walker costs. **God loves our orphan boy so abundantly that he places a \$1,400.00 walker -- donated by GCC.** However it took this orphan boy in need of a walker to transform this act of compassion into a message...a message that came together in Vivian's mind days later. As she replayed the timing of all the events she found herself retelling the story to friends and calling the walker a miracle. *And miracle is the right word! Our desire to relieve a child's suffering connected us and God used that moment to show us all a greater message. He loves us all enough to show us boldly that miracles still happen!*

PACKING
AND SHIPPING
UPDATE -- June 2011



Guyana Christian Charities Canada Inc. (GCC) has completed its 1st shipment to Guyana for 2011. This shipment left Canada on May 14, 2011 and is expected to arrive in Georgetown on June 5, 2011. Included in this shipment are: *clothing, shoes, toys, bicycles, computers, electric generator, sports clothing and equipment, books, school supplies including backpacks, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and Medical Supplies and equipment, miscellaneous items and 12 Hospital Beds.* These commodities were collected, sorted and packed by our members and volunteers into 786 packages for shipment to over 75 different organizations across Guyana. When the vessel arrives in Guyana, **Billy Fernandes from John Fernandes Ltd. takes on the enormous task of arranging for Customs clearance, informing all recipients of donations and arranging for the pickup and delivery of the donations across Guyana.**

The 12 Hospital Beds included in this shipment are for St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital. These beds will help fill the void created by the fire at the hospital in 2010. In addition to these beds, GCC arranged for the shipment of a 40 ft. container with **425 pieces of office furniture donated by Atlas Cargo.** These supplies will significantly assist St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in restoring the much needed health services it provides for Guyana.

GCC's charitable work can only be made possible by the generosity of all our supporters who make donations to the less fortunate in Guyana. Please continue to do so and make your donations of **usable, clean articles in good condition** by calling one of our members to arrange the collection or delivery of items for Guyana. We can be reached by calling:

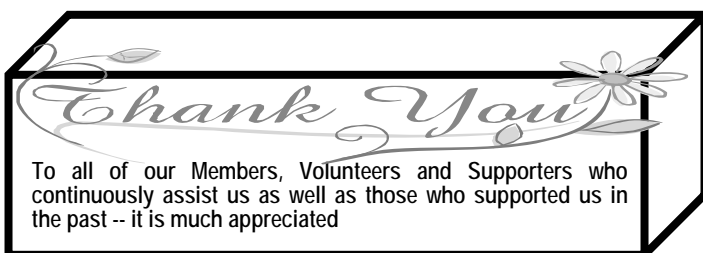
Terry De Freitas	--	416-438-5992
Anne Marie Reigber	--	416-755-6958
Stephen Choo-Wing	--	905-420-2789
Desmond de Barros	--	905-837-0135
Kumar Singh	--	416-498-9962
Elizabeth Abdool	--	416-912-6814

Fragments of Memory

Earthy smells of steaming roads after a burst of rain
The sweet intoxicating taste of stolen mangoes
Chasing donkeys in the savannah for a free ride
Wooden kites, adorned with multi-coloured tissue paper
swinging their tails made of cotton string
The heady fragrance of Cannonball flowers, after a warm evening
rain.
Shaved-ice and hot channa on a Sunday afternoon from an aging
vendor
Making cassava bread at night
Digging for blue crabs in the Koker
Lying in the cool savannah grass looking at the dark sky at night,
Amazed at the brilliant palette of twinkling light

Diane Christie, GCC Member

Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose. *The Wonder Years*



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



1. MARIAN ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Many thanks to those generous contributors who subscribe to the Marian Academy Scholarship Fund. This year GCC was able to assist with twelve scholarships, allowing deserving and talented students the opportunity of a higher level education.

2. THE BERNARD GONSALVES EDUCATIONAL FUND

This fund also provides assistance to less fortunate youths who have shown an aptitude and desire for learning, an opportunity to achieve a higher level of education. It is linked to the Marian Academy Scholarship Fund as well as other special educational opportunities. For instance, this fund will make up for any shortfall to the above scholarship program and this past year, the fees of one of the students attending Marian Academy was paid from this fund.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind our supporters of these funds to kindly send in their cheques by June 30, 2011, addressed as follows:

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.,
534 Rouge Hill Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8.
Re Marian Academy Scholarship Program
or
Re The Bernard Gonsalves Educational Fund

The students are most appreciative of their sponsors and below is a Thank You letter received from one of the students

Dear Sponsor:

I wish to extend my heart filled gratitude for the past three years that you have sponsored me at the Marian Academy. Without you I would not have the privilege of attending the legendary Marian Academy's secondary.In my remaining years I promise to work diligently to make you and Marian proud of me and also to attain my dream of becoming an Oncologist for I know when I do my best, God will do the rest. Please accept this short letter as a token of my sincere appreciation. Thank you and God Bless.

Shekeila Ramsammy

SPECIAL NEEDS

1. **Desperately needed**
<> Sheets <> Towels <> Adult Diapers <>. If you can donate any of these please call Kumar Singh at 416-498-9962.
2. **If GCC has a need**... could you help us to pack on a Saturday? If so, please advise us by email at: info@gcccanada.org or contact any member of the Board of Directors.

In our October 2010 Newsletter, we had two sections to which we were hoping to receive some more responses but ... we were disappointed. If you still have that issue -- please check out the headings: 'Can You Help Us?' and 'Special Needs'. You can also access the articles under these headings from that issue of the newsletter on our Website: <http://www.gcccanada.org>

APPRECIATION

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the following persons who have recently passed on. Also we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation for thinking of us and making it possible for Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

Y. Stepanek
Domingo Da Silva
Desmond De Souza
Armando D'Oliveira
K. Ramalho
Sergius De Freitas
Doreen Durham

GUYANA HOLIDAY WINTER 2010

By Brian Farnum, GCC Member



This past winter a friend and I spent a very enjoyable two weeks in Guyana. Our base was Georgetown, but we were able to visit Berbice #63 Beach, the Corentyne as far as Corriverton, Essequibo - Charity, and Mainstay in the Pomerom.

The most significant aspect of our holiday was to experience the generous hospitality of ordinary Guyanese. Strangers when we met, these humble folk opened their homes to us and shared a bit of their life with us. We parted as close friends.

While we did not go into the interior or see and experience the spectacular scenery, we enjoyed the change of lifestyle - copious fruit - sapodillas, mangoes, star apples, bananas, pineapple, to say nothing of coconut water. Food was inexpensive, the restaurants provided good food at reasonable prices.

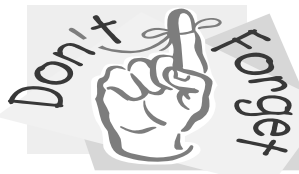
We moved around Georgetown and walked around without any problems. There were a few areas we were advised to avoid. The weather was good every day except one when it rained throughout. Several roads in Georgetown were flooded, mainly it seemed because of clogged gutters.

We visited St Ann's Orphanage, met the staff, and had a tour of the premises. I was quite impressed with the way the orphanage was run. The place was clean, the children seemed to mix well with one another, and everyone seemed to have little duties.

A great trip, I will not forget.

NOTE:

Please bear with us as we try to send those of you who gave us your email address, to receive our newsletter electronically.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011

Come Join us and Enjoy

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
24, 2011
at 7:30 p.m.

FALL DANCE
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)

Music: Band: Triple Play
DJ.: Bake

Tickets can be obtained for the dance from:



Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
Mike Gonsalves -- 416-420-0565
Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135
Dennis Choy -- 905-839-0434
Theresa Gonsalves -- 416-284-2496
Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526
or Any GCC Member

SUNDAY
October 30,
2011
AT 1:00 P.M.

ANNUAL FOOD FAIR
AND BAKE SALE
Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall
1490 Markham Road
(North of 401 – Entrance on Milner Avenue)
Free Admission



MAIL BOX -- Extracts
from some letters of
appreciation for our help

"Thank you once again for your generous donation to our Centre. We are very grateful for the materials and equipment you have offered for our use. We have now entered our tenth year of providing a service to the Guyanese youth. ...In keeping with the nationwide curriculum, proposed by the Ministry of Education, the Centre has adopted the competency based method of assessment. This has resulted in a greater percentage of trainees being successful in their various subject areas."

Mercy Wings Vocational and Day Care Centre

The Board of Directors, Administration and Staff of Beacon Foundation are most grateful to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. for your generous donation of kitchen utensils, clothing, medical supplies, etc. Your contribution to this organization has made a difference in the lives of many less fortunate.

Beacon Foundation

Give a Helping Hand

YES! I WANT TO HELP

- \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other
 General Marian Academy Scholarship Fund
 In Memory/Honour Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Education Scholarship Fund
 St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Fund

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: _____

Your donation is tax-deductible Charitable (No. 89096-5643-RR0001).
A receipt will be mailed. Please send your cheque and this form to:

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8

Donations may also be made through our website:
<http://www.gcccanada.org> (through CanadaHelps.org)

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

- I would like to be on your Newsletter Mailing List/
email list
 My address has been changed

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

email: _____ Phone: _____

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8
FRIENDS OF GUYANA CHRISTIAN
CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

- Yes, I wish to become a member of your organization
 Yes, I would like to join the youth committee
 Yes, I wish to assist with donation of items/supplies
 Yes, I would like to help with the:
 - Food Fair dance packing for shipments
 - transporting donated items

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

email _____ Phone _____

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8
Thank you for your generosity and support

CALL US TO ADVERTISE

We publish two newsletters each year
(June and October)
If you would like to advertise....

Please call

Stan Nicolls 416-651-2482

email: stanandmarg@yahoo.com





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