

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

Greetings and welcome to this edition of our Newsletter ... Celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

We have made an effort to look back ... and hope you will resolve to assist in looking ahead.

It is an honour to have been re-elected as President for the ensuing year and especially during this special celebration year.

We would like to extend a **very special thank you** to **Joe Castanheiro** for taking such wonderful care of our finances from our inception in 1986 to 1995 ... at which time he took the reigns as President from 1996 to 2001 ... then back again in the Treasurer's position from 2002 to 2012. Joe has given us his services even before GCC was incorporated ...but ... dealing with the GCC period – he has served us for the past 25 years – as Treasurer for a total of approximately 20 of those 25 years. For this we are greatly indebted to him ... and ... it is heartening and a great strength to us that he agreed to continue as a member of the Board of Directors and to assist in the hand-over and training of those who will be handling this very important duty. **It is truly difficult to find the words to express this gratitude...other than THANK YOU... THANK YOU!**

Also **sincere thanks** to outgoing Director **Anne Marie Reigber**. Anne Marie is a founding Member/Director of GCC and has been on the Board of Directors ... on and off ... whenever needed. Anne Marie has assured us of her continued direction and involvement in the organizing of our packing team (the group responsible for the main objective of our organizing and sending items to Guyana). She also assists in any other area of our mandate. Anne Marie – thank you most sincerely. We don't know where we would be without her!!

I would also like to express a special thank you to Bill Fernandes (and his wife Sandra) of John Fernandes Limited, for all their help in assisting with the distribution of our shipments sent to Guyana over all the years. Bill recently retired and, much to our relief, his nephew Mark who took over from him in the Terminal Department, agreed to continue helping us.

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement. God Bless you all!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Abdool

President

The Presidents of GCC:

1986 – 1996	--	Desmond de Barros
1996 – 2001	--	Joe Castanheiro
2002 – 2009	--	Bernard Gonsalves (deceased Sept. 2009)
2009 – Present	--	Elizabeth Abdool

KUDOS

....From **Sister Noel**

First of all, CONGRATULATIONS on your 25th anniversary! What wonderful work, support and help all at GCC have given so many people in so many ways over those years.

I am proud to say that previously, Anne Marie Reigber and I were involved in sending gifts to Guyana. In summer we bought Christmas gifts, toys, clothes, etc. and had them shipped to both St. John Bosco Orphanage and St. Ann's Orphanage. These used to be sent in barrels and as the years went by the barrels became containers. To us at St. John Bosco Orphanage, you were doubly generous in sending cheques periodically. Those donations were utilized and still are expended for foodstuffs.

Mercy Boys' Home which is now in existence for 12 years (a Home established for the boys who left St. John Bosco Orphanage at 16 and had nowhere and no one to go to) is also grateful to GCC for its monetary remembrance of us through the years. The boys are helped in getting jobs and in general, guided through their teen-age days (their stay with us from 16-21 years). The boys who are all working provide their own food supplies so that we are able to utilize your monetary help for repairs to the Home and for medical support for the boys.

More thanks also for your special help to our patients at the Leprosarium-Mahaica Hospital to whom every two weeks we share out a variety of food items and for which they are very grateful.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you at GCC who give so much of your time and effort and financial help over the years. May the next 25 years be as fulfilling as the first.

Sr. Noel

FromSt. Ann's Girls Orphanage

Congratulations to GCC on its 25th Anniversary! Over the last 25 years, St. Ann's has had various Ursuline Sisters loving and caring for the girls of this orphanage. Below are comments received from some of the Sisters...merged into one article.

It is with much gratitude that we congratulate Guyana Christian Charities for their 25 years of selfless giving to the people of Guyana. St. Ann's owes much indeed to GCC. The barrels and boxes of goodies arrive regularly with all sorts of useful materials and treasurers of all kinds with much delight. The numberless bicycles donated to us through GCC has provided hours of enjoyment to our girls and kept them out of mischief. Any time that we have expressed a need ... GCC has responded with prompt generosity. The financial assistance received from time to time has always ensured that the immediate needs of the girls were met.

We are grateful for the dedication and hard work that so many members put in to help us take care of the girls of St. Ann's and we will certainly pray that the Lord will bless all their members and associates with His boundless treasures.

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
(KJV)

Why I Choose To Support GCC

I "found" Guyana Christian Charities after my first year of volunteering at Mercy Hospital in the same accidental way that I "discovered" Guyana itself. I wanted to raise money for textbooks for my courses in the School of Nursing, and my friends wanted to know if they could get a tax credit. So in 2003, I wrote to Joan de Barros and then went to a meeting at Des and Joan's home.

My finding GCC may have been luck, but the reason I have stayed involved is no accident. I have volunteered in Guyana at St. Joseph Mercy School of Nursing now for almost a decade and have called on the volunteers at GCC to assist me with many requests shipping textbooks to Mercy, helping me to buy netbooks for all the first-year students, assisting with the administration of donations I have received in Canada. I have had many questions and problems and the people at GCC have helped me solve all of them. That's more than enough to make them my favourite group AND they do it without charging for their efforts. I think that GCC leaders should run Canada!

Congratulations on a quarter-century of improving the lives of people in Guyana and mine.

John O'Connor

I don't do as much as I used to but I am a firm believer in volunteering for a good cause which I believe GCC to be. Anyone with time on their hands would be well advised to become a volunteer. It pays dividends, not in cash but in self-satisfaction.

Fran Stephenson

I support Guyana Christian Charities. Those of us who left our land of birth to seek a better life, have never forgotten those we left behind. It is a tribute to our Faith, and the famous hospitality Guyanese are noted for, that we extend ourselves for the betterment of Guyanese in the "Land of Many Waters" - 'Faith, Hope and Charity, and the greatest of these is Charity'.

Dianne de Freitas

As I grow older, I find myself becoming more and more nostalgic for the lost years of my youth in Guyana (then British Guyana). Ours was a wonderfully tolerant and diverse society in which kindness towards one's fellow Guyanese was an ever present attribute of our society. Guyana Christian Charities as an organization embodies many of the best aspects of the country I left behind - concern for our fellowman, empathy toward the less fortunate and an ever present sense of community. Their work is dedicated to giving back to the country of our collective youth. Over the years I have become more and more aware of their tireless and ongoing contributions to the people of Guyana, and I decided that I wanted to be part of this effort. Perhaps for me this is my own small way of going back to Guyana through my future involvement with GCC.

Dereck Mahanger

How to Receive GCC'S Newsletters

If you are not already on our mailing list you may either view and/or print our newsletter from our website <http://www.gcccanada.org> or request to be put on our email list via our email address "info@gcccanada.org". If you do not have a computer, you may call 416-912-6814 and asked to be added to our mailing list.

BAKE SALEFrom Then to Now

Our first Bake Sale was held at Holy Spirit Church in 1978. We made cakes, pastries, curry & roti, tea table, Christmas crafts, dip and punch board. We raffled a handmade crocheted table cloth. Our biggest challenge was to keep the noise level low during Mass.

After a few years, we concentrated on adding more food: Black Pudding, Fried Rice, Chow Mein, Potato Balls, Phoulouri, Bakes and Salt Fish, Preserves and local drinks. In 1994 we moved to L' Amoreaux Community Centre but we soon realized that this was not big enough. In 2001 we moved to Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Banquet Hall, a much bigger facility so we were able to add more stalls, e.g. Silent Auction, Peppercorn and Eldorado Rum cake. Our Tea table is bigger but we never have enough pastries to meet the demand. We still have a big raffle, as well as a cake raffle of a "novelty" cake. We introduced face painting and craft activities for the children.

We have more than 100 volunteers without whom this would not be possible. For many older Guyanese this is the event of the year where they eat...and greet their friends and celebrate our culture. **WE need YOU.....** if you can make Cook up, Chow Mein, Salt fish cakes, Pone, Chester, Patties, Pine tarts, Black pudding, Homemade ice cream which is very popular, Sweet Tooth, and the list goes on. Every little assistance helps.... " **One, one dutty builds a dam**".

A *GOOD NEWS* STORY

A few months ago, Member – John O'Connor offered us his collection of books on Guyana. We checked around for a 'good home' for this collection and were glad that the Guyana Consul General Office in Toronto confirmed that they were happy to accept the books and plan to create a library in their office. We are very pleased that something good will be done with this fabulous book collection. The books are now in the possession of the Consulate in Toronto.

We extend a very special **THANK YOU** to John O'Connor – our 'adopted' Guyanese brother who does so much to assist Guyana especially in the training of nurses at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Feature Charity



Mothers Union Daycare Centre sincerely appreciates GCC for our assistance in the completion of the above daycare. In the pictures above, you can see the start-up and a section of the daycare. GCC has assisted with the carpets/chairs/toys/books, etc. They were so excited that they sent us several photographs with various sections of the completed daycare. We wish we could have included all the photographs for everyone to see. It is always heartening to know that we were able to support a most needed project and to receive so many 'thank you' notes from our charity recipients..... **it gives us energy to carry on."**

Ready
to lend a hand?



Volunteers Needed Always

Interested in:

Baking/Cooking/Making Goodies?

Join our seasoned volunteersand turn your spare time into social good....and at the same time learn the skills and recipes of special items you might want to do for your family, friends or yourself.
Contact us by: Phone: 416-912-6814 or email: info@gcccanada.org

Next Food and Bake Sale: **October 28, 2012**

After reading the above article in the last newsletter, asking for volunteers to help experienced bakers making goods to be sold at the Annual Bake Sale, I joined a group making patties. I plan to do so again this year. I learned a new skill as well as some of the "magic" needed to produce these mouth-watering goodies.

My family usually get together to learn to make some of the Guyanese foods that my parents made for us. Thank God, Dad has been able to guide us in doing it right.

I want to encourage you and your family to join with experienced bakers to learn how to do the wonderful baked goods that have made the Annual Bake Sale so popular. It helps to preserve our Guyanese heritage and help Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. in their much needed work.

Philip Andrew de Barros

Thinking 'OUTSIDE THE BOX'



Two of our supporters came up with two (2) fabulous ways to raise funds for GCC

- ✦ Firstly they held a toy-drive during the Christmas Season and donated the toys for the children in our Charities.
- ✦ Secondly they arranged with the place of employment of one of them to hold 'Jeans Days' in aid of GCC

A Big Thank You! **GOOD IDEAS:** Could anyone reading this come up with something different' to help GCC? Just let us know and we will give you any assistance we can.



We would like to express our sympathy to the families, members, volunteers, supporters of the following persons who have recently passed on:

Lorene Fernandes
Dennis De Souza
James Reynolds
Enid Jawahir

Eternal Rest Grant onto them O Lord.

Sincere thanks to those who listed Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and/or the Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

Some GCC's Accomplishments

1986	Meeting held to finalize paperwork needed to be registered as a Canadian Charitable Organization. Name chosen - Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
1986	John Fernandes Ltd. agreed to continue handling our shipments as well as the distribution of same.
1987	Letters Patent approved by Minister of Consumer & Corporate Affairs.
1987	First Valentine Dance held at Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall, St. Claire Avenue East, Scarborough.
1987	Fiscal Year set as July 1 to June 30 each year.
1988	Registered Number received from the Ontario Government as well as from Revenue Canada.
1988	First Valentine Dance held at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, Markham Road, Scarborough ...and we are still there!!!
1988	GCC's Corporate Seal received.
1989	Charitable Organization Status Tax Exempt Number received - effective January 1988 (16 months back!)
1991	Des de Barros and Elizabeth Abdool visited Guyana along with Ken Davis, (decd.) Canadian Foundation for World Development, with the intention of forming a 'Guyana Distribution Committee'.
1992	Distribution Committee in Guyana was formed ... but never got off the ground!
1995	Bake Sale held at L'Amareaux Community Centre - the first outside a Church Hall.
2002	Guyana Christian Charities Prayer was implemented which is said before every meeting. 'Dear Lord, we of Guyana Christian Charities are gathered here in Your name. Guide us to make decisions that would be of maximum benefit to those whom we support in our dear land of Guyana. Amen.'
2003	GCC's Logo finalized. This logo was found to be 'perfect' for GCC and we are proud of it. The story....Start at the Maple Leaf = Canada ... and follow the solid line all the way to the end of the arrow = Guyana ... from: Canada >>> to: Guyana.
2003	Mission Statement approved.
2004	Website operational This allows us exposure to people who utilize the internet and will broaden our profile within Canada and internationally and to receive donations on line (through CanadaHelps.org).
2005	Flood Disaster in Guyana. Donations obtained and sent to Guyana.
2008	Import/Export Number received from Canada Revenue Agency.
2008	Terms of Reference for various Committees finalized.
2009	GCC's Policies & Procedures completed and approved. This was created with input from official Canadian Government requirements and will assist in ascertaining that we keep in line with rules and regulations pertaining to our Charitable Organization Status.

As we move on ... we need new and young people to join us in order that we can continue to make history! Can we count on you? Give us a call!



Thank You Volunteers/ Members/Supporters
for your continued support and significant participation



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012

Come Join us and Enjoy

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
22, 2012
at 7:30 p.m.

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

Music: Band: Triple Play
D.J.: Bakes

Tickets can be obtained for the dance from:



Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
Mike Gonsalves -- 416-420-0565
Dexter Gonsalves -- 905-428-3883
Dennis Choy -- 905-839-0434
Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526
or..... any GCC member
or..... email info@gcccanada.org

SUNDAY
October 28,
2012
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

New Donors: Please call **Rahana Khan** - 905-282-3110



...Valentine Dance
February 16, 2013



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General Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund

In Memory/Honour St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Fund

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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.

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6

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.**

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6

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.**

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6

Thank you for your generosity and support



Guyana's History You thought you knew

The Church of the Sacred Heart, popularly once referred to as the 'Gem of Main Street', had its origins in 1861 when a chapel designed by Father Schembri, was opened on Christmas Day on Main Street. The church originally catered to the Portuguese and Masses were all said in that language due to their ignorance of the English language.

The destruction by fire on December 25, 2004 of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church affected the community both physically and emotionally. Parishioners lost not only a place of worship, but many of its outreach programs were severely affected. The adjoining primary school was also lost to the fire displacing the students who attended the school. Since the destruction of the school, many of the students share space with the children at St Mary's Primary School. A turning-of-sod ceremony on Feb 18, 2011 marked the beginning of a massive reconstruction of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church.



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Photographs for Guyana

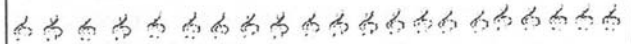
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As a GCC member and volunteer at Mercy Hospital, I want to use my photography to support Guyana projects.

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ALL proceeds used for Guyana projects.

For further assistance: revsx2@hotmail.com



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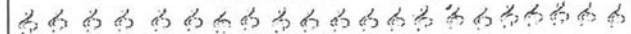
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