

**PRESIDENT**  
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905-683-1030

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001

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## OUR MISSION

*Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit charitable organization, registered in Canada, dedicated to providing aid & Assistance to Guyanese,— children, families & individuals.— & others in need.*

**Come and Join us  
at our upcoming  
fundraising event**

## Fall Fête

**SATURDAY,  
September 15, 2007**

SEE PG. 4 FOR DETAILS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

<b>President</b> Bernard Gonsalves	<b>Vice President</b> Kumar Singh
<b>Secretary</b> Elizabeth Abdool	<b>Treasurer</b> Joe Castanheiro*
<b>DIRECTORS</b>	
Rahana Khan	Philip Gulab
Michael Gonsalves	Joan De Barros
June Ann Sealey	

\* Past President

## SPECIAL GIFT TO ST. ANN'S GIRLS HOME

Readers of this newsletter may know of John O'Connor, who has been visiting Guyana for the past five years to teach a semester of courses at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. While there, he writes a weekly letter, "Ramblings", about the country and his experiences.

Last Fall, some of John's letters focused on St. Ann's Girls Home (associated with GCC since the late '60s), and a recipient of the letter was particularly impressed by two needs. First, Camp Kayuka, which is nearby, urgently needed fixing up so that it could be safely used by the St. Ann's girls for outings and holidays. Basic renovations would cost close to Canadian \$4,000.

The second "need" wasn't even recognized until Maria, one of the St. Ann's girls, kept mentioning to John that her birthday was coming up ..... and MAYBE she could have a present? Maria was persistent enough (like the person who kept on asking in one of Jesus' stories!) that John eventually arranged a little outing for her to the shops where she might be able to find **THE FIRST NEW CLOTHES SHE'D EVER HAD**. This outing was a spectacular success.



Here is a photo taken just afterwards, and you can see Maria's delight in her new top and pants, though you can't see quite how much fun the outing itself was.

The reader of the "Ramblings" shortly afterwards inherited some money from her late mother, and decided to contribute enough for the basic rehabilitation of Camp Kayuka (\$4,000) and to make it possible for each of the St. Ann's girls to have a similar birthday outing for at least the next five years (\$6,000). Thanks to Maria, who believed "**Ask and it shall be given to you!**"! A total of Canadian \$10,000 was given to GCC for St. Ann's.

Thanks to John, who responded, and to Sister Beatrice Fernandes at the Home, who encouraged him, and to the shop assistants who helped Maria choose! **As for the donor, she says that her mother would have liked to know some of her bequest was used this way, and that the donation itself has been a source of joy to the giver. Good results all around!**



## Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

As winter leaves us, we usher in the World Cup Cricket competition, this ever popular game symbolizes warm and comfortable weather, -- a welcome transformation from the bone chilling days we have been experiencing these past months.

As always, GCC's main focus is to assist the poor and the needy, regardless of religion or ethnic background. We accomplish this through personal voluntary involvement, providing emergency financial assistance, material aid and support in an effort to resolve an immediate crisis, educate children, and working with others to help families become self-sufficient, regain their dignity, and the ability to help others.

We are particularly proud of the work we do, and fully realize that for our organization to continue its good work in the years ahead, we would need to seriously look at recruiting younger Guyanese to carry the "torch". This is one of our "must-do" projects for this year, as these new members would be groomed to carry out, in a dignified and respectable manner, the organization's mission, and introduce new ideas for consideration. ***If anyone is interested in getting involved in this very rewarding activity, please fill out the information box which can be found on page 4. You will find that there is great self satisfaction in coming together to help provide the basic needs to the underprivileged, and it is truly a humbling and rewarding experience.***

In Guyana, we are honored to have John Fernandes Ltd.'s involvement with us, which dates back to the days in the 60's when we shipped barrels to Guyana. Since then they have unselfishly given us their capable and professional service -- **free of charge**. Chris and Billy Fernandes, we thank you for your personal help and continued assistance, including your staff. You have ensured that the items we ship reach their final destinations in Guyana.

We would like to bring your attention to the upcoming Guyana Independence celebrations in Canada, held under the auspices of the Honorable Consulate General of Guyana, Mr. Danny Doobay, in commemoration of Guyana's 41<sup>st</sup> Independence Anniversary. This celebration is an important part of Guyanese heritage and there will be numerous activities held between May 27 and June 22 to make this a special occasion.

Our dedicated members and volunteers continue to undertake various projects. Some activities over the fall and winter included:

↳ **Food Fair & Bake Sale:** This is our biggest fundraiser and I am most happy to report that our October 2006 event was the most successful, -- thanks to all contributors, helpers and those who come out in large numbers in support of this very popular annual event. **This year's function will be held on Sunday, October 28, 2007.**

↳ **Hospital Beds:** GCC and the Palms Restoration Committee joined forces and shipped 53 hospital beds to the Palms Institution in Georgetown. These beds were given to us by Chelsea Nursing Home. Shortly after, a further 715 beds became available and was offered to us by several nursing homes. Unfortunately, we could not afford the freight cost needed to ship these additional beds to Guyana.

**Knowing full well how desperately these beds are needed, and the benefit and comfort, they would bring to the sick and elderly, we contacted Guyana's Council General, who accepted the offer and had the beds shipped to Guyana. A job well done! Our thanks and appreciation go out to our very trusted and long time supporter, Joachin Reigber, who was instrumental in making the initial contact for the donation of beds. See further coverage on this on page 3.**

I would like to thank all those who have made our mission a reality, -- our members, volunteers, supporters and donors, who gave so willingly and freely of their time, efforts, material aid and storage. We look forward to you sharing our future successes and greatly appreciate your support. I would like to wish each of you a healthy and most enjoyable summer. God's Blessings to you all.

*Bernard Gonsalves*

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL OUTREACH  
PROGRAM



GCC has assisted students from Queen's Medical Outreach (QMO), to be involved in a six-week health and life skills education project starting in May 2007 in Georgetown and in several communities in the interior.

QMO is a volunteer student-run organization based at Queen's University that works to promote individual and community health in Guyana. Sponsorship would allow these students to continue to develop and maintain the strong relationships that have been established with the Guyana Red Cross and the Guyana Ministry of Health. This will continue to educate and empower youths to make healthy decisions.

This project also allows these students, not only to educate Guyanese youth, but also to bring back what they learn to educate Canadians about Guyanese culture, and the current issues and challenges that Guyana is facing. Such annual educational visits provide great benefit to the Guyanese participants, helping them to develop their individual skills, which will undoubtedly serve them well in all their future endeavors.

### You Can Make A Difference!

We welcome volunteers and supporters of all ages to join us in our effort to help improve the lives of the less fortunate. Volunteers are the lifeblood of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. **Currently, help is urgently needed in the packing area.**

FLOOD RELIEF  
AFTERMATH  
FINAL REPORT



We are happy to report that the final amount of \$1,425.00 was paid out to a poor family who lost almost all of their belongings and livestock during the floods. Disbursement of the funds entrusted to the R. C. Bishop took a while, but this delay is quite understandable, as we can only imagine the enormous task it must have been identifying the neediest of the needy.

Here is our final and complete accountability report of funds we received and disbursed on this project:

**Receipts -- Donations & other fund raising activities** \$ 38,977.75

**Disbursements:**

**In Canada:**

Rubber Dinghies, Wading suits, food & clothing 3,300.00

Medications 7,500.00

Freight Costs (Air & Ocean) 13,236.12

**In Guyana**

Repairs to Church & Boys Hostel Flat 2,685.00

Cash administered by The RC Bishop & paid out to 253 needy families 10,256.00

Disbursements -- food-kitchens etc. 2,000.00 38,977.12

**Balance Remaining** .63

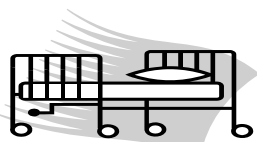
This concludes our collaborated efforts on this project. We thank you all for your generosity and outpouring of sympathy and genuine concern for our Guyanese brothers and sisters in their time of sorrow and devastation. We hope and pray never to experience another tragedy of that magnitude in the future.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to: (1) *The R.C. Bishop, the Vicar General – Rev. Father John Persaud and Sister Celina Hanoman, RSM* who worked tirelessly and diligently for several months in identifying families, eligible for assistance in Guyana; helping them to get a new start at rebuilding their lives and regaining their ability to become self-sufficient once again; and (2) *Chris Fernandes* for initiating the arrangement of their involvement in this delicate task.

THE GUYANA  
BED PROGRAM:

GCC was influential in recently acquiring 715 hospital beds for Guyana. It all started out with a donation of 50 beds, then ballooned to several hundreds after contact was made directly with the supplier of the replacement beds in the USA.

These manually operated beds were donated to GCC by seven nursing homes in the Greater Toronto Area, since they were being replaced by electric types. **Thanks to the nursing homes i.e. Seven Oaks, Cummer Lodge, Bendale**



**Acres, Kipling Acres, Fudger House, Wesburn Manor, and Castleville Wychwood for their generosity.**

Since the cost of freight to ship these beds to Guyana far exceeded GCC's budget, contact was made with the Guyana Consulate General, who undertook to bear these costs. The Consul General after contacting the Ministers of Health and Social Services in Guyana, indicated that the beds can be used immediately at New Amsterdam, Skeldon, Port Mourant, Mibikuri, Suddie, Charity, Lethem, Mabaruma and other social services institutions.

The cost to ship these beds in twelve 40 ft. containers is \$55,000 (Cdn.). To raise the funds, a committee was formed and several initiatives are planned e.g. donations (tax deductible), brunch, dinner/dance, etc. **To make a donation towards this program**, please call the Consulate at 416-494-6040 – Ext. 22, David Adams (Co-Chair) (905) 276-2228 or Kumar Singh (Co-Chair) at 416-498-9962.

GCC has always been shipping beds to Guyana, when available. The latest was 53 beds and 28 mattresses shipped to the Palms Institution in Georgetown, -- thanks to the generosity of the Palms Restoration Committee (Toronto Chapter) who paid the greater part of the cost of freight for these items. This presented a great opportunity to utilize the remaining funds raised by The Palms Fundraising Committee, which were generated some years ago -- needless to say they were received with deep and sincere appreciation.

**REFLECTIONS**

REMEMBERING KEN DAVIS....whose dedicated life came to a close on Monday, Feb. 5 this year after a lengthy illness. His active life was dedicated to assisting less fortunate countries of the world and their inhabitants through the Canadian Foundation for World Development organization, which he established.

One of our lucky days was being asked to participate in one of his shipments scheduled for Guyana. A significant project at that time was his "eye care" program, which provided ophthalmologic examinations and eye glasses to the underprivileged in Guyana and other areas of the Caribbean. We were asked to provide some help with a shipment and thereafter we were given a wide range of assistance for the charitable work we were engaged in. This included immense help with our storage problems by allocating for our usage, a large area in the unoccupied industrial buildings made available to him in areas awaiting redevelopment. Ken made several trips to Guyana to meet personally with the charitable organizations there, in order to get a first-hand understanding of their needs.

Ken and his wife, Ruth, are shining examples of lives dedicated to helping the less fortunate and we acknowledge with gratitude their many kindnesses. To Ruth their daughters, grandchildren and all other members of their family we offer our sincere condolences in the loss of their loved one.

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.  
*Marian Wright Edelman*

**PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE**



By the end of October 2006, GCC had shipped two 40-ft. containers, which expended our 2006/07 budget. However, there were 40 boxes that could not be accommodated with the last 40 ft. container. These boxes were co-shipped with another shipper. In addition to this co-shipment, another 40 ft. container (*with 53 beds and 28 mattresses*) was sent to the Palms Institution.

Bad weather halted packing of items for shipment. From March 22, 2007 our volunteers resumed to sort donations and pack boxes for the next shipment.

Our storage facilities, including our members' garages are packed with donations. A large quantity of drapes, privacy curtains and linens were also donated by St. Peter's Hospital. These were transported to the 10 Budworth location and packed for shipment.

We need many more volunteers to get these donations ready for the next shipment, which is planned for June 2007. Members, volunteers and friends are welcome to join us to clear these facilities. If you could help, **please call one of the following members for information:**

- Terry DeFreitas (416) 438-5992
- Orlean Williams (905) 839-2890
- Joan de Barros (905) 837-0135
- Kumar Singh (416) 498-9962

**2007 Valentine Dance:  
Raffle Prizes Winners**

1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 Basketball Tickets Raptors vs. Pistons	Pat Dias
2 <sup>ND</sup>	2 Basketball Tickets Raptors vs. Pistons	Eleanor Searle
3 <sup>RD</sup>	Exercise Bike	Barbara Man-Son-Hing
4 <sup>TH</sup>	Kissing Bridge Painting	Julie DeAbreu

**Wish List**

- Cribs
- Stoves
- Bikes
- Clothing (especially children's)
- Wheelchairs
- Microphone system
- Clip-on microphones
- Electric fans
- Blood pressure apparatus
- Microwave oven/Toaster Oven
- Pressure cooker (large)
- Vitamins & Cough syrup
- Glucometers, strips, & lancets
- Pots



**MAIL BOX**  
Extracts from some letters of Appreciation for our assistance

**Shaheed's Boys & Girls Orphanages.** "We would like to acknowledge your generous donations over the past years. We are very fortunate and thankful for having a donor like you."

**St. John Bosco Orphanage Grace Daniels, Administrator:** "Greetings from the sister, staff and boys...to your organization. We have received the gift items...are most grateful to you and your organization for your continual support to the boys. Thank you very much for these gift items which are of great use to the boys. May God continue to bless you all with His peace, health and joy."

**Edna Thorne, Parika Outfall Neighbourhood:** "...as for me I am not so well. I am troubling with pains in the knees but I am not giving up, that is old people complain. My birthday will be the 12<sup>th</sup> November – I will be 72 years of age but I am still struggling along with the Needy Children...I have received some gifts for the kids who cannot afford to have a Christmas."

**Russ Sampson, S.F.M., Linden:** "Many thanks for your spirit of service. The boxes were delivered and we are in the process of sorting out this wonderful gift. I recognize there is no way of measuring the generosity of service that you have provided for many Guyanese. We entrust you to God's care."

**SVP, Sacred Heart Conference, Barbara Caesar:** "... we would like to extend your organization deep appreciation and sincere gratitude for the support you have given to us by the donation of several items. Your valued gesture will go a far way in making our Society more meaningful and we look forward to your continue co-operation in the future."

**Bright Horizon Family Home, Kuru-Kuru, Soesdyke, Doreen Livan:** "God's richest blessings be yours as I look back on all the years your organization has been standing with us, we must say thank you. The children do appreciate all your love and gifts that you send them. We are registered and recognized by our Ministry of Human Services & Social Development. I am a trained child care worker. God bless you again, as you faithfully continue to stand with us."

**Lethem Public Hospital** On behalf of our patients and also some of the outlying Villages you wonderful people visited during your Outreach in Region #9, I say many thanks to you and your Organization in remembering us and for your kind gifts and contribution towards this Remote Region of Guyana."

**Help & Shelter:** This is to acknowledge with heartfelt thanks the ten boxes that were shipped to us during the month of November 2006. Your gift is well received and will contribute immensely towards assisting residents in our shelter. Once more thank you for your most generous gifts to us."

**Management Committee, Suddie Public Hospital** "All at Suddie Public Hospital would like to thank you so much for all you have done for our Institution in making life easier for the residents of Essequibo Coast and Islands. We do appreciate all the hard work involved to make things a reality."

**Social Services Officer, Mahaica Children's Home** "Kindly accept our sincere gratitude for your generous donation, which will bring cheers of joy to them. I take this opportunity to thank you for you continuous support during the year and to wish you and your organization a Happy Christmas and a successful 2007 as you continue to reach out to those in need."

**Our Lady's Missionaries, New Amsterdam.** I write on behalf of many people in New Amsterdam who have and will benefit from your generosity. Thank you for them and us. Everything arrived in good order and so neat and presentable. God Bless you and your loves ones throughout 2007.



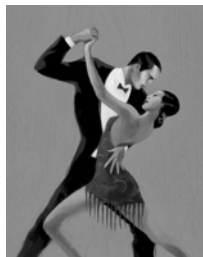
**It is always in your power to help those in need**



2007

### UPCOMING EVENTS

... Mark your calendars *and*  
... Book your tickets early



### FALL Fête

**SATURDAY, September 15, 2007**

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

**Band: -- Vintage**

**D.J.: -- Raymond "Bake" Perreira**

**For Tickets: Call:**

Joe Castanheiro	--	416-286-1956
Mike Gonsalves	--	416-501-1497
Des De Barros	--	905-837-0135
Theresa Gonsalves	--	416-284-2496
Bernard Gonsalves	--	905-683-1030 <b>or</b>
		<b>any GCC member</b>

### ANNUAL FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007-- 1:00 P.M.**

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall  
1490 Markham Road (North of 401 - Entrance on Milner Avenue)

**Free Admission**

**Fun & Activities for everyone**

*Enjoy Guyanese & Caribbean Foods*  
*Chat with old & new friends*  
*Support various charities in Guyana*  
*Support our Silent Auction & Raffle*



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



### Guyana's History - You thought you knew

**Q: Who first scaled Mount Roraima?**

**A:** Everard Im Thurn and Harry Perkins, in 1884. Their expedition to try to climb Roraima was sponsored by the Royal Geographical society, the Royal Society and the British Association. Detailed accounts of their successful climb were prepared for Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society. See Journey to the Lost World.

**Q: The first Europeans to settle in Guyana were the Dutch. What crop did they first cultivate?**

**A:** Cotton.

**Q: Where did Europeans first settle in Guyana?**

**A:** Old Fort Nassau on the Berbice River. Abraham van Pere, a Dutchman, sailed up the river in September 1627 with forty men and twenty youths and settled there with the intention of trading with the Amerindians. Trade was done in salt, tobacco, wood and annatto (annatto), a dye mainly for fabrics.

**YES! I WANT TO HELP**

\$100    \$75    \$50    \$25    Other

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.  
1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON. L1X 2B9

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

My address has been changed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON L1X 2B9

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON L1X 2B9

Thank you for your generosity and support

### CALL US TO ADVERTISE

We publish two newsletters each year  
(**May and October**)  
If you would like to advertise....  
Please call **Stan Niccols**

**416-651-2482**



## How Can you Help? ..... Everyone can get involved!

- **B**ecome a member or volunteer of our Organization.
- **W**e hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 4544 Sheppard Ave E, Scarborough, ON M1S 1V2 (7:00 p.m.).
- **J**oin us with our Annual Food Fair and Fundraising Dances. Willing hands to bake, prepare food items and help us with these events are always needed.
- **A**ssist with sorting and packing of items for shipment.
- **C**ontact donors of medical supplies, hospital equipment, clothing, shoes, hotel sheets and towels (being replaced), household detergents and other needed items.
- **U**timize our Registered Charitable status that permits Income Tax receipts for donations.
- **U**se our Memorial Cards when available at funerals of relatives or friends or leave a lasting legacy such as charitable gift annuity while realizing significant tax benefits.
- **D**irect your United Way contributions to Guyana Charities (Canada) Inc. -- Contact your Human Resources Department.
- **C**onsider being involved in promoting scholarship/s for deserving students in need of financial assistance.