

PRESIDENT
Bernard Gonsalves
905-683-1030

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001

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(416) 499-1528

VICE PRESIDENT
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(416) 498-9962

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Joseph Castanheiro
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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 Dance

**SATURDAY,
November 22, 2008**

SEE PG. 5 FOR DETAILS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

President Bernard Gonsalves	Vice President Kumar Singh
Secretary Elizabeth Abdool	Treasurer Joe Castanheiro*
DIRECTORS	
Rahana Khan	Philip Gulab
Michael Gonsalves	Gerry Gouveia
June Ann Sealey	

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Joan De Barros

* Past President

GCC's INVOLVEMENT IN OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS OF DEPRESSED COMMUNITIES

For the past seven years, Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) in collaboration with Living Instructions for Today (LIFT) has been reaching out to the depressed communities in Guyana. Such areas include Tiger Bay, Saxally, Buxton, Paradise/Bay Root, West Coast, Moca, Agricula, Albouystown, Guyana Prisons and the homeless in Georgetown.

Items donated include clothing, toys, bicycles, strollers, carriages, wheel chairs, household equipment and many other items as requested.

The brainchild of Canada-based Guyanese Lauren Harry or "Sister H" as she prefers to be referred to, this venture started out of a love to give back to the country she loves. In the beginning, her organization (LIFT) only assisted the less fortunate in Canada, especially the West Indies community. The work of this organization includes counseling of: inmates released from prison to help them back on their feet; drug addicts and street people. The local partner, with the help of GCC through the Charlotte Street Wesleyan Church, carries out the same work in Guyana. According to Sister H, the initiative just grew by leaps and bounds and eventually there was a need to collaborate with the church to facilitate a more effective outreach program.

This program brings such joy to the faces of families, especially the children as the truck arrives to their community with boxes from GCC. The excitement screams and laughter as they receive their little packages cannot be expressed in words.

GCC working together with LIFT is making a difference in the lives of many.



Sister H. presenting families with wheelchair, bicycle, clothing, food, toys, etc. from GCC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. provides its members with opportunities to participate in many volunteer services directed towards the poor and the needy, with an emphasis on community involvement.

Moving into the summer months, the demand for volunteer support is high in the packing and shipping area. Participation from our members, volunteers and supporters is of utmost importance to us. We need to attract more members while directing our energies in recruiting younger participants -- for it is true, that there is strength in numbers. We will be able to achieve a lot more by increasing our membership. We are trying our best to preserve the organization, so that it will be here to serve generations of Guyanese to come.

Today, the role GCC plays in our community is significantly different from when it started. Our mission has extended far beyond that of fundraising, as we provide assistance to a large number of charities and organizations, educate children, assist students who volunteer their time in Guyana, as well as participate in joint ventures with other organizations to assist someone in need.

I would like to thank everyone associated with GCC (including our faithful members, volunteers and supporters) for helping us achieve our many successes and for all that you do individually and collectively, to the benefit of the Guyanese community. I would also like to welcome all those who have recently joined us in our endeavors.

As always, I ask for your participation in our activities and for your suggestions for future growth. Please feel free to contact any of our Board Members at any time with your thoughts or comments. We would love to hear from you. Kindly explore our website to learn more about us at: <http://www.gcccanada.org/>

Many thanks to all of you, together we will continue on with what we have done in the past, and move forward with renewed vigor in carrying out our mandate.

God's Blessings to you and your families.

Bernard Gonsalves

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

~Sherry Anderson

NEEDY FAMILIES NEED YOUR HELP



GCC is supporting two programs, which were started sometime ago by the R.C. Bishop of Guyana and Father John Persaud.

The first project provides about fifty (50) needy families with a food hamper every month. The hampers are given to mainly large families who are unable to provide for their basic needs. Each hamper costs approximately CDN.\$50.00. and is provided from donations.

The other project is a daily soup kitchen to help the many people in Georgetown who are hurting from lack of daily nourishment.

GCC has already utilized our special fund to help defray the costs of these projects, but your help is also needed for the continuation of these programs.

Please send your donations to GCC directed to the Food Hamper and Soup Kitchen Fund.

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. -- Sir Winston Churchill

GCC ANNUAL BAKE SALE & FOOD FAIR



Come join us on
October 26, 2008

at Sts Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall, so that you can enjoy the food and taste of Guyana. Hundreds of Guyanese attend this annual indoor event.

This annual bake sale creates a meeting place for Guyanese and non Guyanese to reminisce and gaff about the good old days. Listen to some folk songs and participate in our silent auction and raffle. There are also games available for children, so make this a social and family event.

We have a wide variety of food including *bakes and salt fish; pepperpot; souse; black pudding; curry and roti/dhal puri; potato balls; cookup rice; chow mein; fried rice; meat patties; lots of different cakes and pastries; cassava pone; mittai; pine tarts; salara; homemade ice cream; fudge; black cake made with El Dorado Rum* just in time for Christmas, etc. Try our *mauby, ginger beer and sorrel*.

Please invite your family and friends. We need your support and contributions -- call us and get involved. All funds raised are used to assist the poor and needy of Guyana.

Kindly contact Rahana Khan at 905-282-3110 if you are interested in volunteering or donating food or bake products.

PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



The severe weather conditions this past winter had a major impact on communities across Canada. GCC also was adversely affected. The amount of snow and extreme cold weather prevented our volunteers and members from collecting donations and packing boxes for shipment. No packing was done during the months of December 2007 to February 2008. We have now resumed packing and our next shipment (40 ft. container) is scheduled for June 2008.

Our last shipment was sent September 2007 comprising of 556 boxes/items for distribution to 70 organizations in Guyana. The total value of that shipment was Cdn. \$51,527.00 and included a large quantity of clothing, toys, books, medical supplies and equipment. Included also were 115 bicycles, 12 computers and 155 pairs of orthopaedic shoes. The shipment arrived in Guyana in time for distribution before Christmas.

To expedite our next and future shipments, we need your help. If you can help, please call one of the following members for information:

Terry De Freitas:	416-438-5992
Gerry Gouveia:	905-623-2034
Joan deBarros:	905-837-0135
Kumar Singh:	416-498-9962

NEWS IN PICTURES:

GCC supports the Prabhu Sharan Orphanage at Cornelia Ida on the West Coast of Demerara with donations on a regular basis. This orphanage currently houses 14 orphans.



In photo (1) the children presented a wheelchair to an elderly disabled member of their village. The wheelchair was donated by GCC.

In picture (2) the children are distributing boxes and toys at Christmas to other needy children in their community.

GCC also supports communities at North-east and East La Penitence. Wendy Granada, a former member of GCC, who is now residing in Guyana, hosted a Christmas Party for about 100 children, with the assistance of GCC. The children were treated to a meal and a gift bag each. **This photo shows a group of children who attended the Christmas Party.**



ST. JOSEPH'S MERCY HOSPITAL: EXPANSION OF SERVICES CONTINUES



Readers may not be aware of the ever-widening variety of services offered by SJMH. Since 1996, a Medical Clinic team has provided free medical services to people who have low incomes (or no income at all!) and who travels regularly to four different sites. Similarly, the Wishbone Program, which provides free repairs for cleft lips and palates on children and young adults, has now expanded to include facial cysts, tumors, fractures, congenital facial deformities, and facial surgery for older adults who have lived in pain with disfigurements for years.

Then there is Stemming the Tide (partnered with Catholic Relief Services since 2003) which diagnoses, treats and cares for men, women and children living with HIV AIDS. It includes a school-readiness program that provides uniforms, shoes and school supplies, gives vouchers for nutritious food and for cleaning products to HIV families in need, and pays for dental care.

Remote Area Medical (RAM) is a partnership with Medical Teams that come to Guyana three times a year and work in the Interior testing and diagnosing women with gynecological problems through pap smears and examinations. The follow-up program includes procedures such as colonoscopy, LEEP, and other surgeries which are carried out at Mercy Hospital, supported by donations.

Partnership with a Team from Canada includes optometrists, ophthalmologists and nurses who do vision testing and in 2007 distributed over 200 pairs of eye glasses. Special attention is given to the Guyana Interior where low-vision is prevalent among Amerindians because of lack of access to healthcare. Other cooperative ventures include free treatment to those in orphanages and homes for the poor, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, and religion.

Nursing School: In previous newsletters we have reported on the efforts made to upgrade the School's program and the generous assistance in this regard that has been provided for the past six years by Rev. John O'Connor, a retired faculty member from McMaster University now living in Nova Scotia and a member of GCC.

John points out that in the past decade, the main source of reference knowledge has moved from books, journals and libraries to cyber space databases and portals on the internet.

The School of Nursing (and all of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital) has now joined the 21st Century! Through the donations of many supporters, the hospital has opened a Computer Café. There are five internet-connected computer stations where the students, faculty and staff can work. And thanks to the HINARI Project (Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative) from the World Health Organization of the United Nations, the staff and students have electronic access to the most up-to-date and evidenced-based studies and practice. WHO provides 108 developing countries, including Guyana, with free subscriptions to the current academic literature available from all over the world, through the HINARI project, eliminating the costs of textbooks and the shipping expenses that students incur to stay current.



GCC member John O'Connor teaching in the computer room to the First Year Students in 2007.

Web-based resources require a different way of looking at information as well as new knowledge and skills to find it. While he was there last Fall, Rev. John taught over 120 persons to use the service through various courses and sessions. However, there are only five computers available for students, faculty and staff and one or two printers and for these paper, ink and (most importantly) servicing are required. So it would be nice to think of a donation to assist the school with the purchase of a computer available in Guyana for about \$1,200 Can. or a pack of paper for \$10.00. Income tax receipts will be given by GCC for such donations.

Thanks

Extracts of some letters of Appreciation for our assistance

St. Vincent De Paul Society, Church of Ascension, New Amsterdam, Berbice -- We would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for your donation of three boxes of clothing, shoes, books and other articles. We are also pleased to inform you that we finally located the wheel chair. This chair has been handed over to a sick man who has difficulty in walking.

Ujama Housing Scheme -- We the members of Ujama Housing Scheme wish to say 'thank you' for the clothing and shoes we received during the Christmas Season. It was appreciated by the people of the community.

Senior Citizens of the Buxton/Friendship Golden Age Club -- I wish to express sincere thanks for the two boxes of items sent. Many members were pleased to receive the hand bags and some special items of clothing that they could use during the Christmas holidays.

It is always in your power to help those in need



Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q: He was born and grew up in New Amsterdam, Berbice in Guyana. He lived in Trinidad, England, Canada and Barbados, finally settling in England. Notable among his writings was the Kaywana Series. Who was he?

A: Edgar Mittelholzer, the most prolific of all West Indian writers of his day. Most of his novels have been translated into French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish.

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".

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF SIR JAMES DOUGLAS

(born Aug. 15, 1803, Demerara, British Guiana
died Aug. 2, 1877, Victoria, B.C., Canada)

Sir James Douglas (a Guyanese born in Demerara, British Guiana, on August 15, 1803) has made an indelible mark on the Province of British Columbia and Canada.

He was considered the "*Father of British Columbia*". He was the founder and Chief Factor of Fort Victoria for the Hudson's Bay Company. He would later become the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Crown Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia from 1851 to 1864. He was knighted in 1863 by Queen Victoria in recognition of his services.



Among his many accomplishments were the building of the original fort, the creation of a park at Beacon Hill, the institution of the first town plan, the organization of the Victoria militia, and the establishment of a common school system. He made a modest grant towards the building of the first hospital after having previously established a Naval hospital in Esquimalt.

His funeral was considered the largest ever in British Columbia history for everyone who knew him, whether European or First Nations, held him in the highest regard.

The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become.

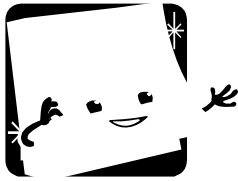
Harold Taylor



REMINDER



The Annual Guyana Festival in Toronto
Awards: May 24 – Festival: June 20-22, 2008



2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

... Mark your calendars
... Book your tickets early



Fall DANCE November 22, 2008

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

Music: Band: **Vintage**
D.J.: **Raymond "Bake" Pereira**

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
or any GCC member

**ANNUAL
FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE**
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2008-- 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**

BAKE SALE 2007 -- RAFFLE WINNERS

Sand-colour Embroidered and
Cut-Work Table Cloth - Ruby Jose
Framed Painting - Joanne Colotosti
Food Hamper - Jeff Kiousses

VALENTINE DANCE - 2008

RAFFLE Prizes Winners

2 – Basketball Tickets
(Raptors vs. New Jersey) -- David Bourne
2 – Basketball Tickets
(Raptors vs. New Jersey) -- Shirley Gonsalves
Bulova Watch -- Jackie Amers
Hickory Farms Gift Basket -- Allan Luckham
Silver Chain with Heart Pendant -- Carl Veccock

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? Anyone can get involved!

- **B**ecome a member or volunteer of our Organization.
(We hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.00 p.m. at 4544 Sheppard Ave E, Scarborough, ON)
- **S**upport our Annual Food/Bake Fair and Fundraising Dances. The proceeds from our Spring and Fall Dances are used primarily for humanitarian health efforts. *(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 equipment, detergents and other needed items.
- **U**tilize 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 participating in our Group Scholarship Educational program for children of low income families who are deserving of financial assistance.