

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8

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

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Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) continues to direct its funds to programs that support children, their families and seniors.

Part of our help is focused on the youths of Guyana, since they will be the future leaders who will help to develop Guyana and its rich resources. We highlight below two of the charities we assist and would appreciate your help to support the work that they do.



The boys' living room

The Mercy Boys' Home in Guyana (founded in 2000 by the Sisters of Mercy) is a safe place for boys after they attain the age of 16 at St. John Bosco Boys Orphanage. Many of these boys have been abandoned at birth and have no one and nowhere to go. Boys of that age are still vulnerable, and require a degree of care and guidance.

The boys at Mercy Boys' Home are given a start in life, either with assured jobs or continuing education until they reach the age of 21. The outgoing boys are assisted with some financing for their independent life which is a plus, thus giving them the opportunity to enrich their lives.



Bright Horizon Family Home in Soesdyke -- a home for homeless children. Currently, there are some older girls in this residence who have been there since they were 3 or 4 years old -- some of them have no biological parents that they know of...they have no place to go! The home wants to start a Day Care Centre and possibly a Hair Salon where the four (4) girls in the picture (Betsy, Maria, Naomi and Onessa) can be self-employed.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President Elizabeth Abdool 416-499-1528	Vice President Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Secretary Rahana Khan 416-282-3110	Treasurer Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956
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Joan De Barros -- 905-837-0135

SECRETARY ASSISTANT

Gloria Persaud -- 905-475-1542

TREASURER ASSISTANT

Jivanne Foster -- 905-420-9326

* Past President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

In writing this message, I could not help but think of the global financial situation, the awareness of energy conservation, climatic changes, rising poverty levels etc. – the list goes on. Yet despite all these obstacles, I am heartened by the enthusiasm of our members, volunteers and supporters who are committed to the growth of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc., to assist those in need, whenever and wherever possible. There are many explanations for our continued success, but perhaps the single most important reason is our ability to draw on each other's strengths and our unwavering commitment to carry out our mission under all unforeseen circumstances.

In this unpredictable period of our lives, one thing is certain; we will need your continued support with our many initiatives, in order for us to respond to the many requests that will surely be coming our way. Whilst donations of money, clothes and useful items are always welcome, willing persons to provide volunteer services remain our greatest need. Why not join us, your personal support as a member of GCC would make a big difference! There are also many ways to get involved in giving, or volunteering. Visit our website to learn about the many options for supporting our various programs.

Each year brings many new challenges to us all. GCC currently assists over 100 charities in Guyana, as well as being involved with some joint endeavors. I am also gratified by all of our supporters, donors, members, volunteers and those who work with us on various projects. This type of support helps to address major challenges and root causes of Guyana's social issues and assists in the development of joint solutions, thereby improving and expanding services to the underprivileged.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our members and volunteers and the people who benefit from the support of our donors, I want to say thank you most sincerely for your commitment, your compassion, generous contributions and support, without which, we could not continue to look to the future with enthusiasm and optimism.

This year has been a particularly sad one for GCC, as we have lost two of our remarkably active and dependable members within a short space of time, Gerry Gouveia and David Dumont. Gerry has been a supporter of GCC from the early days of our existence, and as a Director on our board, provided valuable advice in helping to shape our destiny. David was a relative newcomer to GCC, but could be relied upon for yeoman support in many areas of activities despite his failing health. Their participation and involvement in GCC will be surely missed.

May 8 marks the seventh year of my tenure as President of GCC. I feel the time has come for me to pass on the responsibility of this prestigious office. I wish to thank my fellow directors and members for the loyalty and guidance they have provided to me and to our volunteers and supporters for their confidence, dedication and appreciation of our commitment to carrying out our mission. I look forward to serving the organization as a Director and

in the capacity of Past President, and to provide the assistance needed for the smooth transition of the office. I am confident that our supporters, members and friends will continue their support to the incoming President, Elizabeth Abdool, whom I am confident, will uphold the dignity and integrity of this office and lead us towards a stronger tomorrow.

May God bless you and your families for your participation and generosity.

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little. **Edmond Burke**

"SISTER SHEILA STREET"

By
John O'Connor



What better way to remember and celebrate the contribution of Sister Sheila Marie Walsh, RSM, than to name a street for her?!

Sister Sheila was the CEO at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Kingston, Georgetown from 2000 to 2008. I don't think Sister Sheila was claustrophobic, but she was seldom in her office. Most of the time she was "walking around" everywhere on the hospital grounds, and all the time calling every staff member and student by name. If she received a call that there was a problem, issue, whatever, Sister Sheila was on the move: she would walk over and get involved in the resolution. It could be a difficult patient situation or lost keys for an office or to encourage a person who had returned to work after an illness.

In early 2007, the floors of the School of Nursing classrooms were raised about six inches in order to prevent flooding of the classrooms. This kept the classrooms and the feet of students and faculty dry while they were in the classrooms, but the path outside the classrooms was not raised, so students, faculty and all the employees entering the administrative building or going between classes got wet! The Hospital Board decided that it would be a fitting tribute to the walking style of Sister Sheila's leadership, as well as the values of her faith, to keep others safely above the rising tides and dry. So as part of her celebrations, the "street" was commissioned and poured in record time and a plaque hung. It reads in part, "This walkway is dedicated to the unwavering and yeoman-like service given to St. Joseph Mercy hospital by its CEO Sr. Sheila Walsh, RSM 2000-2008".

And, of course, the funding for the project relied heavily on the members of the Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. Thanks again!

A TRIBUTE TO GERRY GOUVEIA

By Terry & Desiree De Abreu

GCC is saddened at the passing of Gerry Gouveia. Gerry was an extremely active member of our organization for very many years. He has been a director from 1995 to 1999 during which time he had a short break. He returned to the board of directors in 2007. In addition to his directors' duties, Gerry was one of our most reliable and ardent "weekly hands on" volunteers with our packing crew. He was doing this up to the week before he died. He never ever forgot where he came from and involved his family in the work of the GCC, especially at our bake sale and at our dances. Gerry, his wife Norma and their family moved out of the Toronto area and we were concerned that his move may have caused him to reduce his involvement. However he tirelessly commuted to our meetings, packing sessions and fund raising events and continued to give his all. He was a wonderful example to us all and a mentor to many.

Gerry was also Past President of the Rotary Club, with other involvements such as the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul and Relay for Life Walk (as a family) for the Canadian Cancer Society.

My earliest memories of Gerry were when we were both students at St. Stanislaus College in Georgetown. He was always good for a new "Confucius say" joke, of which he seemed to have an inexhaustible supply. When I left Guyana in early 1955 I lost touch with Gerry, but I knew he had met, fallen in love with, and married Norma. We met again in Georgetown in February 1962 and learnt that he had immigrated to Canada with his family in October 1961. He was as usual, cheerful and full of jokes (not "Confucius say" ones anymore). In the mid 1960's by coincidence we lived on the same street as Gerry and Norma for one year or so, and our friendship with them was renewed. From the early days of the "bake sale" Gerry, Norma and their children were heavily involved with the pastry stall, in baking patties and pine tarts and in organizing the stall on the day. Gerry could always be seen smiling and making change, staying calm in the confusion around him.

In the early 1990's Gerry fell ill with a particularly aggressive cancer. He bore his misfortune with great dignity, optimism, and cheerfulness, and was never heard to complain or express negative comments on his illness. When I last saw Gerry at the New Year's Eve dance he was still smiling and cheerful. He passed away suddenly on Friday March 27th after a very brief illness. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Gerry lived his life most honestly and humbly. He will be remembered for his integrity, his smile, his laugh and his passion for his family, for life and for travel. He loved his family and created a wonderful life here for them.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife Norma, his five children and eleven grandchildren.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID DUMONT

David Dumont was born in Georgetown, Guyana on January 15, 1932. The younger of two children, he never knew his father who died when he was very young. He attended Sacred Heart School, then Queens College.

He was involved with many charities including: the Saint Vincent DePaul society, Stella Maris Fundraising committee, Mercy Hospital Board and the Rotary Club of Georgetown.

His career spanned a broad spectrum ranging from a disc jockey for Radio Demerara to Regional Manager of IBM Guyana, and later years joined RBC Dominion Securities here in Canada.

David was a teenager when converted to the Roman Catholic Religion and for the rest of his life, was a dedicated and involved member of the Church. On immigrating to Canada, he again became involved with the church, as a choir member at Prince of Peace in Scarborough and as a member of the Knights of Columbus. Later he moved to Pickering and became a Minister of Hospitality at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church.

David became a member of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. He was always willing to help in any area of activity, especially at the dances and bake sale and insisted in donating his favourite -- cassava pone. No effort was too great for a good cause.

Despite all these activities, Dave's family always came first -- he was devoted to his family. He was never too busy to take the children and their friends to the drive-in, to the creeks for picnics, or to play a game of cricket

In the past few months, David had begun to slow down but he never complained, just carried on as usual. In his final days, he insisted on working at the church throughout the Holy Week and for the last GCC fundraiser on April 18. On Good Friday, he was one of the last to leave the altar and was thanked by Fr. John - that surely served as his last blessing as, on April 25, 2009, God took him gently home.

To his wife Yvonne, children and grandchildren, on behalf of all his friends at GCC, we offer our deepest sympathy.

A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER

GCC has lost a dedicated volunteer with the death of Mrs. **Laudia Perreira**, who passed away recently at the age of ninety-six. For many years she assisted in roti making for the Bake Sale and worked in the kitchen on the day of the bake sale. We are grateful to have had her help and devotion for so many years. Our prayers go out to her children and grandchildren at this time.

"What is the use of living, if it not be to make this world a better place for those who live in it, after we are gone." **Winston Churchill**

PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



In our last Newsletter, GCC made an appeal to our members and supporters for useable and clean items for donation to the less fortunate in Guyana. This appeal was answered in a significant way. Our storage facilities were replenished very quickly and our members and volunteers resumed packing items in boxes ready for shipment to over 100 recipients including orphanages, community organizations, individuals, hospitals, religious and non-governmental agencies. Thanks to all who supported us.

We are expecting that our first shipment for 2009, a 40-ft. container will leave Canada early June. Included in this shipment are:

- medical supplies and equipment, clothing, shoes, sewing supplies, bicycles, wheelchairs, school supplies, books, stationery, bed linens and kitchen utensils;
- 1,000 pairs of frames for eye glasses donated by Ms. Raimonda Kelly of Perfect Optical. These optical frames are being sent to the Georgetown Public Hospital, attention: Mr. Michael Khan, the chief Executive Officer, who will ensure that the frames will be given to patients in the Eye Clinic free of charge;
- About 800 pairs of lightly used orthopedic shoes and boots were also donated by The Management of The Orthotic Group and are partly included in this shipment;
- 47 computers (desk tops, laptops and printers) were generously donated by Mr. Tony Dos Santos from Montreal. These much needed items will fill a huge requirement to several organizations to keep abreast of this technology;
- A huge Church Bell donated by Barbara White from Vancouver will be sent to the interior to satisfy the needs of the community there.

GCC is grateful to all who donated items for shipment. Because of your donation we are able to help so many people in our dear land and at the same time assist us to deliver our mandate. We look forward to your continued support.

Please call one of the following members if you have any items for pickup or if you would like to become a member or a volunteer in our organization. We desperately need help to continue our charitable work.

Terry DeFreitas	-	416-438-5992
Ann Marie Reigber	-	416-755-6958
Stephen Choo Wing	-	905-420-2789
Desmond de Barros	-	905-837-0135
Kumar Singh	-	416-498-9962

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED -- ITEMS NEEDED

- (3) Three televisions and DVD's and or VCR/s, for A New Program to assist troubled youngsters in Guyana
- Bicycles -- any amount
- a small tent and some children's books and toys and any suitable other items, hair dressing supplies and clippers for Bright Horizon Family Home in Soesdyke to start up two new programs, -- a Day Care Centre and a Hair Salon where the older girls can be self-employed.

STEPPING INTO SPRING THE GCC WAY

It's no secret that Guyanese, and their friends, love to party.

And this was certainly evident at our recent Spring Dance held at the Pickering Recreation Centre on April 18th. With the excellent rhythms of the Victor Shim Band and D.J. Raymond "Bake" Pereira setting the perfect mood, it didn't take much encouragement for the dance floor to be filled practically all night.

Memories of yesteryear were stirred up through renewed acquaintances and familiar tunes. Some chose to show off their latest (and oldest) moves while others hummed or sang along. The food was good with some items in such high demand they sold out in record time. A well deserved break came with the drawing of winners for the door prizes and raffle. Congratulations to all our winners.

It's so heart-warming to know that having such a good time can make people forget their troubles and be happy. The funds raised allow us to serve many of the less fortunate in Guyana – the sick and the needy. Thanks to everyone who contributed towards making this evening such a success – our volunteers, prize and food donors, cooks, helpers, and last but definitely not least, everyone who purchased tickets to this worthy cause. What would make this even better in the future would be a larger crowd. Be part of this and support us at our next event. See you there!



Net proceeds of Graduate's Dance will go to GCC

The Graduates of Guyana Reunion
AN EVENING OF MEMORIES
Friday July 31st, 2009
at
The Grand Baccus Banquet Hall
2155 McNicoll Ave (east of Kennedy Rd), Toronto
Party & Lime with the original Graduates
one night only

Ladies will receive a free Graduates' giveaway at the door

Door Prizes "Grand Door Prize" Weekend for 2 at "Blue Mountain Resort" Sponsored by VW

Terry Lall, Cliff Simon, Bobby Hunter, "Fluff" Miller, Joey Wong, Ivor Lall, "Jive" Parris

Ticket Outlets in Toronto

El Dorado Jewellery(GTA) 416-754-0901
El Dorado Jewellery(east) 905-426-6529
Eye-Tech Optical 416-754-2221
Hair Emporium 416-750-1171
SpinCity Music 416-282-4416
Ivor Lall 905-201-9942
Andrew Singh 416-297-8600
cell: 416-618-3712

Doors open @ 7:30pm
with DJ. Mike "Exquisite"
MC
Lester.C
Guest appearances by friends of the Graduates
Admission: \$45 in advance (more at the door)
Net proceeds will go to Guyana Christian Charities
For more on this event please visit thegraduatesbandofguyana.org

Ticket Outlets in the U.S.

Orlando: Lester 407-592-0807
Miami: Joey 305-232-0391
New York "Fluff" Miller 718-693-7303

Terry Angoy
416-609-2125

Quest
Your Vehicle... Your Way

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MAINTENANCE GRANTIES
647-234-4053

Important DATE!

2009
UPCOMING EVENTS



**Autumn Dance
September 19, 2009**



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

**Music: Band: Triple Play &
D.J.: Raymond "Bake" Pereira**

- 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

For Tickets - call

**ANNUAL
FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 25, 2009 -- 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** - (416) 282-3110

**Guyana's History
You thought you knew**

- Q: What fish found in Guyana is regarded as the largest fresh water fish in the world?
A: The arapaima. It has been known to attain a length of 15 feet and weight 400 pounds. The fish was once widespread throughout Guyana but now (year 2001) found only in the Rewa, Essequibo and Rupununi rivers in the North Rupununi area of Guyana.
- Q: What crab in Guyana does not live in its own shell?
A: The Hermit or Soldier Crab. The hinder part of its body is soft and unprotected. So it finds a shell of the snail-like mollusc that is of suitable size and inserts itself in it. When it outgrows that shell, it looks for a larger one and occupies that. There is sometimes great competition among Hermit Crabs for mollusc shells on the beach.

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.
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
- My address has been changed

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ 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 _____ 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
(May and October)
If you would like to advertise...
Please call **Stan Niccols**

416-651-2482

email: stanandmarg@yahoo.com

