

PRESIDENT
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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 and assistance to Guyanese -- children, families, individuals,-- and others in need.

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

**VALENTINE
DANCE**

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2007**

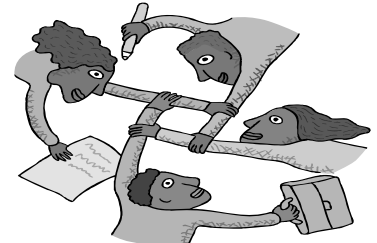
SEE PG. 5 FOR DETAILS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

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

SUPPORTING CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

As reported last month, GCC has once again combined its efforts with various organizations to assist someone or an organization to enrich the lives of individuals and/or families. These humanitarian efforts are being accomplished through our many supporters who attend our Spring and Fall dances. Outlined below are two of our most recent cases:



Case 1: GCC together with **St. Joseph Mercy Hospital** recently joined forces in providing financial support to Juliana Seymour of Wakenaam, Essequibo River, who required replacement of her other knee; -- one was replaced last year which she paid for with assistance from her family. The total cost of that procedure was US \$4,000.00.

Negotiations, on her behalf, were entered into between St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's CEO/Administrator, Sister Sheila Walsh, RSM and GCC. We contributed \$1,000 and financial relief was also provided by the hospital and attending surgeon. We are happy to report that Juliana is once again able to walk, and continues to make progress with her recovery and rehabilitation.

Case 2: Financial assistance was provided to a seventeen year old Guyanese youth, Peter Da Silva, who awoke one morning and found himself paralyzed, he was hospitalized for a short period in Guyana, but needed to have immediate blood plasma treatment which was not available. He was brought to Canada, hospitalized and treated at the **Sick Kids Hospital**; he spent several months in a wheel chair. He returned to Guyana in April, and is trying to get back to his normal activities of life, which was unexpectedly interrupted a few months ago. As we all know the cost of medical treatment here, without having medical insurance is extremely expensive. GCC contributed \$1,000.00 to assist the family with his medical bill during the period of his hospitalization in Canada.

Every year we receive several requests of the above nature and we try to respond positively in most cases. Unfortunately, our mini budget drastically restricts our ability to do more, since the financial commitment needed far exceeds the funds available.

Nevertheless, with the proceeds from our Spring and Fall dances, we will continue our involvement in assistance of this nature, whether the need occurs here or in Guyana.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

It is that time of the year when I have the distinct pleasure of communicating with you again.

Since our last newsletter, one of our key priorities was the sorting and packing of items to be shipped to Guyana in time for the holiday season. As usual, our volunteers "pulled up their sleeves" and got the job done. A forty foot container is currently on its way to Guyana and should arrive well in time for the holidays. Included with the many items, are an assortment of toys, provided by our very generous supporters, especially for the enjoyment of the little ones that "Santa Claus Forgets" in our dear country. These treasured items will certainly bring great joy to the little boys and girls on Christmas morn.

As our fundraising efforts continue, we are finding it quite the challenge, as the pressure on our supporters grows almost on a daily basis. Nevertheless, their generosity to GCC has been continual throughout the year. We owe these very generous friends and supporters, along with our volunteers and members, a vote of thanks for their genuine caring and compassionate acts towards the underprivileged in our troubled country.

We continue to be in search of new fundraising ideas, and would be glad to hear from you in this regard. As you know, we are a body of volunteers working towards our mandate, which is to provide whatever assistance we can to Guyanese in dire need. The ever growing need of assistance drives us to dig deeper in order to try and provide some form of relief, and restore faith to these unfortunate persons, especially the elderly and the physically and mentally challenged.

Over the last two years we have spent over thirty four thousand dollars (\$34,000) in ocean freight, -- this constitutes the single largest expenditure item on our books. This year we would add a further fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000:), -- thus our need to keep our fundraising efforts at a substantially high level.

You are assured of our commitment, to do our very best to maintain and/or improve our level of support to those in need. Over 90% of the funds collected go to the organizations, educational institutions and hospitals, special appeals when disasters occur, shipping expenses and related transportation for dispatches to Guyana.

Winter will soon be upon us, so drive carefully and hopefully, those of us who enjoy the winter sports will derive some added enjoyment from these activities. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a blessed Christmas. God Bless.

Bernard Gonsalves

FLOOD RELIEF AFTERMATH REPORT No. 3



Following our report in the May edition of our newsletter, in which we stated that \$5,000.63 plus 25% of the funds entrusted with the R C Bishop remained to be distributed. We are happy to report that almost all of the funds raised have now been expended for the direct benefit of the neediest cases.

Shipping costs for the items requested by the institutions that suffered the most damage consumed the \$5,000.00, while the Bishop's assistance to families whose income sources were severely affected assisting them to get back on their feet, accounted for most of his remaining funds (25%). The Bishop is currently looking into the possibility of paying out the balance of cash, approximately Can. \$1,800., to assist other needy families. We will update you on the completion of this project in our next newsletter.

Later this month the Diocese will be holding a Workshop on Disaster Preparedness, and have extended invitations to several persons to attend. We hope this educational program will be of great assistance should the need ever arise again in Guyana.

THE GOOD NEWS FROM GUYANA



It is evident, in the field of Education in Guyana, which has regressed to unacceptable levels, that progress is being made. Here are a few examples:

1. In this, its 60th year of formation, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital School of Nursing announced that 19 of its students successfully passed their Registration Exams.

2. The welcome news of the appointment of a five-member Board of Governors mainly consisting of Alumni from each of the most recognized High Schools in Guyana prior to the nationalization of education in 1976; to assist in managing and upgrading the standards that existed previously at St. Stanislaus, Queens College, Bishop's, St. Rose's and St. Joseph's High Schools. Support from the faithful overseas Alumni who still revere memories of their Alma Maters have provided some of the libraries with books, some computers and other equipment. Many will be looking forward also to the positive effect on scholastic levels and other improvements as time goes on.

3. The continuing success of the Marian Academy with a number of Distinctions at the CSEC Exams this year is also praiseworthy. **GCC continues to promote and provide funding for Scholarships to this highly acclaimed school for children from low income families and orphans.**

4. The opening of Secondary Schools and the appointment of more accomplished teachers at Santa Rosa in Moruca, Lethem and elsewhere, is most welcomed. Some of these schools have already been assisted with computers, some books and other school supplies by 'overseas supporters'.

Students are encouraged with the promise of a better future as the standards of their education improve.

GCC is pleased to assist by including donated supplies of equipment and text books in their shipments.

WEBSITE
EXPANSION



GCC has recently expanded its website, so that more information is available....you can now access this website at:

gcccanada.org.

GCC would like to express its thanks firstly to Andrew Khan (son of Rahana Khan), who was instrumental in setting up our original website; and secondly, to Romona Sivanand - nee Khan (niece of Shirley Gonsalves), a webmaster in Guyana, who came on a vacation to Canada and offered her services to GCC. Both of these individuals did an excellent job and we would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude for all the hard work they have done in making us "hi-tech", thus allowing others to learn more about our organization through the internet. **Our newsletter will also be available on our website.**



REMEMBERING: MANNIE da SILVA

It is with a deep feeling of loss that we record the passing of Mannie da Silva, one of our 'founding members' who died on Monday, July 31, 2006, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease. To Carmel, his wife of 43 years, their 4 children and grandchildren, extended family and their many friends we offer our sincere sympathy.

Mannie held many senior posts in banking in Guyana and Brazil with the Royal Bank. He was an outstanding football player (soccer) and represented the country in many international events. He enjoyed any opportunity to play cards with his many friends and he was known for his astute gamesmanship at cards. He came alive and his eyes would twinkle as he aced his opponents.

Mannie, following his arrival in Canada in late 1979, hosted a meeting with Des De Barros, Compton Callendar (RIP), Joe Castanheiro, Elizabeth Abdool, Romeo de Freitas and others to discuss a request from Fr. Harold Wong. Father Wong was seeking assistance in raising funds to replace the aging Organ at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (the R.C. Brickdam Cathedral). Mannie was instrumental in organizing this group, known as The "Organ Committee". Their first endeavour was to be a fundraising dance. Mannie was so committed to the event that he personally made the down payment for the rental of the Hall. This dance and subsequent ones were so well supported that they became the forerunner of our very entertaining and popular "Valentine" Dance.

Meanwhile there was another group called the "Alleluia Committee" that was led by Ann Marie Reigber and Vera Lopes (RIP), who were already sending aid to Guyana. This assistance was primarily focused on helping St. Ann's Girls' and St. John Bosco Boys' Orphanages as well as the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Eventually, these two groups merged into what is now Guyana Christian Charities (GCC). Mannie was one of the original members of the Board of Directors and remained active in our organization until illness forced him reluctantly, to resign. Mannie, along with Carmel and their family continued to support the work and many other aspects of GCC.

With the additional support of fellow Guyanese who have become members over the intervening years, we are now assisting approximately 74 charitable organizations. These organizations represent the entire spectrum of Guyana regardless of race or religion. There are also eight (8) hospitals spread across the country that regularly receive assistance in the form of supplies, equipment etc. Guyana Christian Charities achieved the status of a Registered Charitable Organization in 1987.

We are forever grateful to Mannie for his input in the vision and inspiration that resulted in the formation of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. We will miss him.

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."
Vincent Van Gogh



**GOOD OL' FASHION
CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW AND
BRUNCH FOR THE FAMILY**

THE GUYANA BURN CARE UNIT
invites you to their
Annual **Caribbean Christmas Celebration**
on

Sunday, December 17, 2006,
12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Thornhill Community Centre,
7755 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill, ON L3T 4P1
(corner of Bayview Avenue & John Sts.)

**JOIN IN THE FUN AND ENJOY THE FEEL OF
CHRISTMAS IN THE CARIBBEAN WITH
STEEL BAND MUSIC – MASQUERADE BAND --
MAGICIAN – YOUNG DANCERS -- SANTA &
OF COURSE GOOD CARIBBEAN CUISINE.**

Brunch is provided with Admission

Price:

Children

5-15 years..... \$10

Under 4 years old free.

(includes a Loot Bag from Santa).

Adults:\$20

OTHER ATTRACTIONS:

Bake Sale /Auction/Photographs with Santa/ Raffle





Shipping Update

We have just concluded our second 40ft. container load shipment for this year which we started to pack the first week in June. The constant/generous flow of donated items since the floods of 2005 has made this shipment one of the most valuable and useful we have made. It addresses some of the needs of the various charities we assist and includes many skids of medical supplies for Hospitals and Nursing Homes, Clinics, the National Commission on Disabilities, Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre, and the Palms. These supplies include boxes of *Sterile Gloves and Masks, Thermometers, Syringes, Sutures and Needles* of varying sizes; also *wheelchairs, walkers, Hoyer lifts, bath chairs, raised toilet seats, lab coats, sanitizers, bed linen, etc..* An exceptional donation of eight (8) *life-size Perineal Manikins* was received from the Centennial College Health Sciences Lab in Scarborough for the St. Joseph Hospital Nursing School, and an incredible number of **medical educational Videos**.

It was also a joy to pack with such resources: *lots of clothing for all ages, shoes and socks – school bags and backpacks, pencils, pens, crayons, activity books, binders, file folders, large and small toys, games, soccer, basket balls, tennis and a ‘few’ cricket balls, a bat and stumps.*

For Schools: – *computers printers and accessories* were shared among schools as well as *Text Books for Math & Science* and a few others for University, *Teaching aids for Kindergarten and juniors.*

For the Vocational Schools: – *fabric suitable for different uses, dress patterns, sewing, craft supplies, sewing machines, hair dressing items, artificial flowers for floral arrangements and others;*

Household items: – *various items for bedrooms, kitchens, e.g. dishes, cutlery toaster, etc.;* **For Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Red Cross, The Rehab Centre, Palms, etc.:** -- *wheelchairs, walkers, bath chairs, raised toilet seats, Hoyer lift crutches, commodes, etc.;* **For children:** -- *toys and decorations for Christmas, strollers and a high chair. A total of 60 bicycles were shipped for distribution with 20 for Lethem for children to travel to school in the Rupununi.*

Our thanks to all those who contributed to making all this possible – as we often say – **“You made this possible”**. After this container left on October 6, a supplementary shipment of some items that did not fit was arranged and dispatched the following week. Hopefully, both will arrive in time for Christmas.

Highlighting One of GCC’s Charities:

St. Bernadette’s Hostel for Working Girls: (Originally, **founded by the Ladies of Charity and managed by five Guyanese Corpus Christi Carmelites**). This home currently houses 34 young women between the ages of **18 – 25**, irrespective of race or creed. Preference is given to those living in the hinterland, working in low income jobs or studying in Georgetown and to older girls leaving St. Ann’s orphanage. The Sister-in-charge is Sr. Angela Teresa Bacchus, assisted by Sr. Juanita Berkeley and Sr. Ignatius Fernandes. Some objectives of the Hostel are: **to develop these young women into becoming mature, educated, independent, and be able to take their places in Guyana’s diverse community with others of varying backgrounds and religious principles; and to assist their parents and themselves financially.** The building at 105 Lamaha Street (*originally the home of the John Fernandes family*) is over ninety years old. It was purchased by the Ladies of Charity and renovated through the generous support of the Catholic community. Residents pay minimal fees as a contribution towards the maintenance of the hostel, which barely covers electricity and less major expenditures. The hostel also receives small donations and occasionally holds small fundraising events.



MAIL BOX

Extracts from some letters of Appreciation for our assistance

St. John Bosco Orphanage. “We have received the gift items that you have so kindly sent to the orphanage -. We are most grateful to 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.”

Guyana Prison: “On behalf of the Guyana Prison Service, I would like to express our gratitude for the tangible items donated by your organization. I can assure you that these will be used in a worthy manner for the inmates.”

Mercy Wings Vocational Centre. “We are indeed grateful for your unwavering support to this ministry over the years. It has now been six years since we are educating the children of Sophia and its environs, and we are certainly proud of our achievements. Some of our graduates have started their own businesses and others have joined the world of work. Thirty four trainees graduated in 2005

Shaheed’s Boys & Girls Orphanages. “On behalf of the orphanages, I would like to thank you for your generous gifts of the school supplies, teddy bears, curtains and boys and girls clothing. Your commitment to helping us care for the children is sincerely appreciated”.

St. Ann’s Orphanage -- “Thanks for all those boxes with such a variety of things in them. Many will be put to good use by our girls and whatever is not suitable we share with others in need -- and they are many. Fr. Paul Martin, S.J. is always glad to get the warmer clothing as he works in the Pararimas”.

Bright Horizon Family Home. “God’s richest blessings by yours as I look back on all the years your agency has been standing with us. We must say thank you. The children do appreciate all your love and gifts that you send them”

Uncle Eddie’s Home. “....wish to express its heartfelt thanks to you for the kind contributions you make to the Home. These have made a positive difference to the operations of the home and we look forward to a continued partnership with you in this regard.”

Jesuit Presbytery. “Thank you very much for the labour of love you are engaged in. Along with burning down of the beautiful Sacred Heart Church, we the Jesuits also lost our “Jesuit Religious House”. There is an attempt to rebuild the Church and also the Jesuit Presbytery there.I am sure the whole of Canada will help in the effort to rebuild the Sacred Heart Church”

Juliana Seymour’s Family. “Thank you for your assistance towards Juliana’s surgery. This is a great help together with your efforts in helping the hospital and doctor to give a discount”.
(See pg. case 1)



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

**✓ VOLUNTEERS -- WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS.
THEY HELP KEEP US GOING!**



2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



VALENTINE DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2007

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

Music: Triple Play and DJ

For Tickets: Call: Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135
Theresa Gonsalves -- 416-284-2496
Bernard Gonsalves -- 905-683-1030



LOOK

for our



Spring Dance

May 5, 2007

Fall Dance

September 15, 2007

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

Music: Will be announced later

For Tickets: See above (same persons as Valentine Dance)



Guyana's History - You thought you knew

Q: How did the rarest stamp in the world, Guyana's famous "penny magenta" or "one-cent black-on-magenta" come to be printed?

A: In the 1850s, British Guiana's stamps were printed in England. Whenever there was a delay in the shipment of stamps and the post office had none, stamps were printed locally. Each stamp was then initialed by the Postmaster or one of his clerks in order to lessen the risk of counterfeiting. The famous penny magenta" or "one-cent black-on-magenta" was one of these stamps. It was produced in 1856 by the printers of a local paper, the Royal Gazette.

Q: Guyana-born E.R. Braithwaite wrote a novel based on experiences gleaned from teaching in England. What is the name of the book and the very popular film made from it?

A: To Sir With Love.

Q: Which Guyanese, best known as a writer and thinker, once acted with Sir Laurence Olivier while he was living in London?

A: Jan Carew.

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 the website:

CanadaHelps.org

FRIENDS OF GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

- Yes, I wish to become a member of your organization
- Yes, I wish to assist with the 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

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

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

Name _____

Address _____

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



Some Facts and Figures

- ❖ Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is a registered Canadian charitable organization dedicated to helping various Guyanese organizations that care for the sick and the needy.
- ❖ You can request that your United Way contributions be specifically designated to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. – Please contact your Human Resources Department.
- ❖ When a loved one passes away you can notify the funeral home and include in the obituary that you wish to have donations go to GCC's Loving Memory Program to commemorate your loved ones in lieu of flowers. -- Most funeral homes have our address or contact Joan De Barros at (905) 837-0135 or through email des24@rogers.com
- ❖ Assistance is given to the Guyanese community as a whole, regardless of race or creed. To date the list of organizations we help number 82, including eight hospitals.
- ❖ Confirmation is received by us for items shipped to the various organizations.
- ❖ The value of the items we send to Guyana is approximately six times the funds we raise.
- ❖ Approximately 50% of funds raised are used for shipping and related costs.
- ❖ All administration of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is accomplished on a volunteer basis and there are no paid employees.