

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.



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MAKING OUR PURPOSE HAPPEN!!

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is known mostly for the many items we ship to over 70 charities in Guyana. This is only possible in part because of the volunteers who pack hundreds of boxes necessary to fill a container to be shipped to Guyana twice a year.

These volunteers ... known as 'THE PACKERS' can be found at our packing location – 10 Budworth – EVERY THURSDAY from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. This group is divided into segments in order to have a smooth operation. The segments are named – Sorters/Packers/Box-Assemblers/ etc. We need assistance in all these areas. If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays – we would love to have you join us.



A.Zitman is seen sealing a box packed by L. Menezes



L-R: K. Singh, S. Choo-Wing, J. Reigber and S. Niccols checking off cartons ready for shipment

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			
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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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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR			
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Gloria Persaud -- 905-475-1542		Jivanne Foster -- 905-420-9326	

President's Message



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and
Volunteers:

"THE BEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO"

I came across the above 'slogan' and considered it a description of what each of us must endeavour to attain in an effort to assist our fellow human beings. I hope we can all keep this slogan in the front of our minds and try to live it. You will be seeing it often!

This is my first President's Message since being elected to this honourable position within Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. First of all I would like to thank each and every one of you for reading this Newsletter. If you did not ... we would be wasting our time in our efforts to keep you up-to-date with the happenings within Guyana Christian Charities. Please continue utilizing this means of communication and we would appreciate any suggestions that you may have to offer to make it even more informative and interesting.

Also, I would like to thank our Past Presidents – Des deBarros, Joe Castanheiro and our most recent Past President Bernard Gonsalves for leading our organization to where it is today. Like these gentlemen, I am well aware that without the support of the Board of Directors, Membership, Volunteers and Supporters over the years – we would not be here. Therefore – guess what? ... I am depending on the same support and co-operation – without which I will be lost - and our organization would not advance. So ... thanks in advance for continuing to be there for Guyana Christian Charities. I have my work cut out for me. I sincerely appreciate all the kind words received from so many of you and for the confidence and trust expressed. I will do my utmost to live up to your expectations and I certainly need your prayers and support.

Later in this Newsletter you will read an Obituary for Bernard Gonsalves – our most recent Past President whom I referred to above. He was certainly a wonderful President and I will do my utmost to keep his ideals to the forefront. He will certainly be missed by all of us and, to his wife Shirley and all his family we extend our condolences. This is the second Newsletter in a row that we will unfortunately be including two (2) Obituaries – the other in this issue is for Norma Gouveia, a very long-term and hard worker for our organization. In the previous Newsletter we included obituaries for David Dumont and Gerry Gouveia. This year has been very difficult for all our members, having to cope with the death of four (4) members to date. These deceased members must be looking over us as we only recently welcomed four (4) new members – Anne Bhagwan, Irene Green, Karen Heifa and Gleyns Persaud. Welcome! We look forward to your long association with Guyana Christian Charities.

Before closing I must extend a public and sincere thank you to our Newsletter Editing Volunteers - Shirley Gonsalves and Stan Niccols who have, for very many years, worked closely to produce what has become a well accepted and information-filled Newsletter. Without their constant reminders to members of the need for articles and information, our Newsletters would not be possible. As requested earlier in this message – your input and comments on our newsletter would be much appreciated. Also, if you enjoy writing and are

creative – your services in assisting with future newsletters would be welcome – just give us a call.

God bless you all.

Elizabeth Abdool

PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



In our May 2009 Newsletter an appeal was made for specific items of donation to assist The Bright Horizon Family Home in Soesdyke to start up two new programs: a Daycare Centre and a Hair Salon. These programs were designed to assist in the self-employment of 4 teenagers who were with the Home since they were 3-4 years old.

We are pleased to report that this appeal was met with a huge success. The Williams family comprising of Fadil, Nesha and Jenny donated barber scissors, shampoos, hand-mirrors, combs, hairbrushes, hair dryers, curling irons, "flat" irons and curlers, all in sufficient quantities to start up the Hair Salon. For the Daycare Centre they also donated a tent, story books, stuffed toys, blankets, water bottles, black-board and chalk, Magic Doodle, Etch-A-Sketch, strollers and 12 plastic lunch containers.

Another notable donation was made by Cletus Faria of Empress Cleaners on Morningside Ave. Several boxes of working shirts were donated.

Thanks to these and other donors who made significant donations to make it possible to ship another 40 ft. container (the second for the year) to assist the less fortunate in Guyana. This second shipment is estimated to arrive in Guyana on November 13, 2009, on the vessel Zim Savannah.

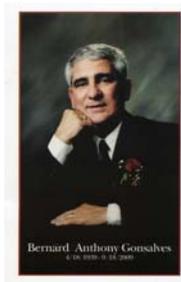
Distribution of the items will be in time for the Christmas Season. This shipment consists of 745 boxes and individual items, and comprise of clothing, shoes, bicycles, books, fabric, sewing machines, walkers, wheelchairs, hospital bedside tables, computers and other supplies and equipment. The approximate value is \$29,000.

GCC is grateful to all who contributed to make these shipments possible through your volunteering, your donations, and your support in our fund-raising activities and 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. Helping others and engaging in charitable activities is very satisfying.

Terry De Freitas	- 416-438-5992
Ann Marie Reigber	- 416-755-6958
Stephen Choo Wing	- 905-420-2789
Desmond deBarros	- 905-837-0135
Kumar Singh	- 416-498-9962
Gloria Persaud	- 905-475-1542

The Passing of a President



Bernard "Boy Blue" Gonsalves
1939-2009

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of our recent Past President, Bernard Gonsalves, quite suddenly on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Bernard became involved with GCC shortly after his arrival in Canada. When GCC was registered in 1986, he was elected to the Board of Directors, subsequently served as Treasurer and was elected President May 2002. Since then, his words have graced the front page of this newsletter many times, encouraging and thanking our volunteers and all those who contributed in any way to the organization and the people of Guyana.

When he took office as President, Bernard promised to do his best and this he did, moving GCC forward and facing many challenges head-on, striving always to help the needy in Guyana.

With Shirley, his wife, always at his side, "Boy Blue" (as he was called) worked tirelessly for the Food Fair, Bake Sale, our dances and many other functions. Bernard also met with dignitaries and others who offered to support our mission.

We will remember many good things when we think of Bernard Anthony "Boy Blue" Gonsalves: his early life in Georgetown playing yard cricket with friends (Margaret Niccols, Ken Hahnsfeld, Ed DaSilva and others), his humour and generosity, his smiling positive attitude to life, and his love of life. We will all miss him.

To Shirley, his children and to all his family and extended family, we offer our prayers and our sincere deepest sympathy at this sorrowful time.

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA GOUVEIA

GCC has lost another dependable and generous member in the sudden death of Norma Gouveia in Guyana. In her last month she spent many hours visiting various charities in Guyana, to learn the real needs of the many people we help through GCC. Quite suddenly she became ill and died in the land of her birth.

Although Norma lived in Canada for 47 years, she was privileged to be baptized, made her First Holy Communion, was Confirmed, was married – and was buried from the same Church – the Brickdam Cathedral in Georgetown, Guyana.

Norma was a quiet, gentle person, who was always willing to help when needed. She worked in the kitchen at our dances and at the Burn Care Unit events; and she was a dependable member of our packing team.

From the earliest of Bake Sales, Norma was one of the chief bakers of patties and pine tarts. She taught her children when they were young to help with the baking, as they formed an 'assembly line' to assist with 'filling', 'forking' and 'egging' the patties. In tribute to their parents, the children will run the pastry stall at the Food Fair and Bake Sale in 2009. We sincerely hope that when they experience the satisfaction of this volunteer activity, they will agree to continue doing this duty for many years to come. Norma also taught her children that charity and helping others should be a routine part of their lives.

Norma will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren and many friends who loved her.

Norma only a few months ago suffered the loss of her husband Gerry, who was also very involved with our organization. She is now united with him – together forever. May they rest in peace.

Our sympathy goes out to her children, grandchildren and sister.



THE REIGBERS' VISIT TO GUYANA

During a recent visit to Guyana, one of our very active members, Anne Marie Reigber, along with her husband, Joachim, who are both BIG TIME volunteers with our Packing Team, visited many of the charities we assist. Among the charities visited was the Beacon Foundation who provide shower facilities, feeding and clothing the homeless. Another was the Heavenly Temple, which they report is not only a drop-in centre, but actually a home for the needy, feeding 140 daily. Upon their return they delivered to us a l-o-n-g list of items which are desperately needed. If you can donate any of the following items we would love to hear from you.

- Ladies and men's undergarments (Depends)
- Home-care medication for hospice
- **Only Gently Used** Clothing and shoes all ages (especially small children's and babies')
- Sheets – **Double and Single Sizes**
- Soccer and basket balls and nets
- Pots and baking pans (**Gently used**)

Cough medicines	- Vitamins for adults and children
Pain relievers	- Gauze bandages
Gloves	- Colostomy supplies
Stethoscope	
Shampoo	- Deodorants
Skin cream	- Diapers
Hand sanitizer	- Towels
Plastic cutlery/plates/cups	- Bath chairs
Commodes	- Walkers
Crutches	- Wheelchairs
Sippy cups	- Cribs
Playpen	- Embroidery Thread
Wool	- Sewing machine
Fabric and thread	- Skipping ropes
EXTRA LARGE T-shirts	- Bicycles
Toys	- BIG balls
Kitchen utensils	- Household items

Remember ... Gently used, clean items only. We cannot ship torn, stained or rusted items. **THANK YOU.**

SPECIAL NOTE: NO COMPUTERS ... PLEASE.

Marian Academy

For the 2009-2010 School Year, Guyana Christian Charities was able to co-ordinate 13 Scholarships to this school.

One of our members advised us of an article on this school which you can review at your convenience by going to 'Google' and typing in 'Guyana Chronicle October 5 Marian Academy'.

This article is long but gives an excellent overview of their events over the past year.



TWO NEW PROJECTS FOR 2010

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Sponsor a backpack for a child and put a smile on his or her face.

GCC is launching a new project and is looking for school supplies to fill a backpack which will be delivered to less fortunate kids in Guyana. This will encourage students to stay in school so they may acquire the knowledge, skills and motivation to pursue a successful career.

With the support of our donors, our organization will be able to implement this initiative by providing more children with a backpack filled with school supplies and encouraging children to go to school which will result in a better community.

The following items are suggested and are required by June 2010.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| - Pencils | - Binders | - Crayons |
| - Sharpeners | - Pens | - Erasers |
| - Highlighters | - Glue Sticks | - Plastic ruler |
| - Duotang Covers | - Pencil Cases | - Loose paper |
| - Hilroy Exercise Books | - Lined paper | - Scissors |
| - Reusable Water Bottles | - Fun Stickers | |

SHOEBOX PROGRAM

GCC is also launching a new project for the orphanages in Guyana. We are looking for shoe boxes filled with items for girls and boys, ages 2-16 years old. These shoe boxes will be shipped with our fall shipment and should be delivered to GCC by September 2010. Each shoe box (or reasonable size box) could contain a variety of items for a child of one specific age and gender – example: '6 year old boy'.

As an alternative cash donations to these programs would be appreciated. Your participation would certainly benefit the children of Guyana.



2010 UPCOMING EVENTS



VALENTINE DINNER & DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010

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

Music: Triple Play and DJ

- Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
- Mike Gonsalves -- 416-501-1497
- Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135
- Theresa Gonsalves -- 416-284-2496

or any GCC member

Reserve These Dates

**Spring Dance
Saturday, May 15, 2010**

&

**Fall Dance
Saturday, September 25, 2010
at**

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

**Music: Will be announced later
For Tickets: See above
(same contacts as Valentine Dance)**

YES! I WANT TO HELP

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Email: _____

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: _____

Email: _____

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 _____

Email: _____ 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



Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q: How did the Street and Ward of Bourda get its name?

A: Bourda Street and the ward of Bourda were named after Joseph Bourda, Member of the Court of Policy and former owner of Pln. Vlissengen. It was laid out by the Commissioner of Vlissengen in 1879. The Bourda Cemetery holds the remains of many old citizens of Georgetown. Only those persons who owned family vaults or burial rights in the enclosed ground used it.