

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.



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Website: <http://www.gcccanada.org> Email: [info@gcccanada.org](mailto:info@gcccanada.org)

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Packing & Shipping Update
- Can You Help Us
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## High Tech Training And Education In Guyana

Rev. John O'Connor and Dr. Tony Carr have been members of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. for many years and visit Guyana annually to assist in various areas, especially in the education of nurses at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. The following is a true story related by Dr. Carr while still on their current visit to Guyana, which is expected to end in November 2010.

When Rev. John and I (Dr. Tony) visited Georgetown last year we taught in Mercy Hospital nursing school for 3 months. The girls sat in rows of ancient wooden desks, darkened with age, neat in their spotless white uniforms, scribbling notes into their books from the blackboard. BUT - we noticed a "computer den" just 3 doors along, with 6 desktop computers all connected to the Internet! And we thought ...We also helped teach at King of Glory church in Bellevue, on the West Bank near Wales. They had built a community hall behind the (Lutheran) church, and had started free classes for children after school and at weekends. They had just one old computer (and no internet) - but they were really keen to start computer classes too ...

So we returned to Canada (March 2009) with ideas. You folks at GCC were hugely encouraging. We went round our local churches in Hamilton asking for old fully working computers, and people were so generous – we obtained about 50 computers, printers, etc., then...to pack and get them to GCC! With the help of my BIG son-in-law and an even bigger Army Officer friend we managed. The Reigers were wonderfully patient and helpful, and within a month or so happy messages arrived from King of Glory: 'The computers are here!'



Dr. Tony Carr and Student

Contd. on page 2 .....

## 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 organizations, individuals and others in need*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2010-2011

#### OFFICERS

President Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Vice President Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Secretary Allison Caldeira 647-223-6678	Treasurer Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956
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#### DIRECTORS

Dennis Choy 905-839-0434	Rahana Khan 416-282-3110	Michael Gonsalves 416-420-0565	Karen Heifa 416-287-2526
<b>ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR</b>			
Joan De Barros -- 905-837-0135			
<b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>			
Jivanne Foster -- 905-420-9326			



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

**'THE BEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO'**

We are approaching the end of another calendar year and it is unbelievable that more of the same 'needs' remain. Sometimes we tend to feel that we are going nowhere, but, when we receive the many sincere thank you notes from those we assist, we receive the assurance that we are getting somewhere ... that we are making a difference.

It is indeed heartening to experience the support received from fellow Board Members, Members at Large, and Volunteers alike. We all gain when everyone pulls their weight - none of us can achieve success alone. Keeping Guyana Christian Charities at the leading edge entails everyone's help ... yes - donors and supporters as well. YOU help us more than you can imagine. From time to time we go through ups and downs - with our families, with our health, with over-work, etc. but, with co-operation and just knowing that there is help close by - we make it through and remind ourselves *'The Best is the Least we can Do'*.

Shortly after our last newsletter went to print, the very sad news of the fire at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Georgetown was received. What a shocker!!! We were in contact with their Board and Management group and assured them of whatever assistance we would be in a position to give. They are still in the planning stages but are making progress. Mr. Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the Hospital Improvement Committee, was in Toronto a few months ago and advised some of our members that routine medical supplies are very much needed by the Mercy Hospital since they provide services free of charge for many patients who cannot afford the cost of hospital treatment. This may be a surprise to many of you - as it was for some of our members. We usually include several boxes of medical supplies to them in our regular shipments and will certainly continue to do so. We will keep you up-to-date as more information becomes available.

In our last newsletter there were two (2) articles featured on Educational Program. The response was wonderful. We have been able to renew 11 scholarships. Some of our supporters sponsor full scholarships but ... most are the result of 'joint efforts'. Yes, we have groups of people who, together, sponsor one scholarship. Several people donate \$100.00 per year - with a 5-year guarantee to ensure that the scholarship takes the student through to graduation. This works - it is a super way to help. In unity there is strength! If you would like to assist with the education of a child - call Karen at 416/287-2526. Thanks in advance.

You will see an article later in this newsletter under the heading 'CAN YOU HELP US?' It is a short article. Please read it and see in what way you can assist us. We can do with several extra pairs of hands!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the Last Lap Lime for once again giving us the opportunity to let attendees of this event know **who we are** and **what we do**. The LLL attracts many Guyanese from all walks of life and age groups,

and is certainly a wonderful opportunity for us to promote the work of Guyana Christian Charities. Thanks also to all those who stopped by our booth and showed an interest in the work we do as we assist those less fortunate in our dear land of Guyana.

Once again **THANK YOU to one and all**. We look forward to your ongoing help and support in any way you can.

Sincerely and God bless you all,

*Elizabeth Abdool*  
President

**High Tech Training And Education In Guyana**  
(contd. from Page 1).

When we arrived in Georgetown in September, nothing was as we expected. We had planned to teach our nursing students through a self-instruction method called Problem-Based Learning - which needs lots of Internet time. But Mercy Hospital lost many computers in the big fire (the compound looks so empty now!) There were only two left - totally inadequate for 13 students.

With the help of a group from King of Glory where we are teaching Computer technology, we have been able to have 5 computers working in the Hospital den and Rev. John donates his laptop during class time. All this has brought about quite a change in the nursing students.



All thanks to you at GCC with your most generous donations of time and money. Thank you all so much and God bless!

*Tony Carr and John O'Connor*

**OUR SUPPORTERS..... 'KNOW HOW TO PARTY'**

Our Fall Dance was a huge success. It was certainly a great dance and the proceeds will certainly help us to meet our goal of helping others. Thank you.

There were several beautiful raffle prizes. Congratulations to the winners:

- Large Framed Print - Lauren
- Gift Basket - Alan
- 2 -- \$75.00 Vehicle Maintenance Gift Certificates - Norman (and a 'mystery' guy!)
- Candle Set - Herman
- Bottle of Harvey's Bristol Cream Liqueur - Patrick.

It was noticed that on this occasion most of our winners were men ... thanks to Lauren for representing the ladies in the winner's circle! **A special thanks** to all those who **donated the prizes**.

## PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



Joachim Reigber, Andrew Zitman and Robert Gibson Loading trailer

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.'s (GCC) second shipment for the year, a 40ft. container with 768 boxes of donated articles, will soon arrive in Guyana for distribution. These donations consist of clothing, shoes, lots of toys, bicycles, books, fabrics, sewing machines, crutches, folding chairs, medical supplies and equipment and miscellaneous items. The joys of the coming Christmas Season will be enhanced for the recipients of these gifts. Thanks to all of our generous donors.

Significant generosity was shown by a number of donors with valuable contributions. These include 1301 new optical frames from Perfect Optical (Canada) Ltd., pillows/cushions and massagers from Homedics, 2 Ventilators and computer network connections from Sharon Baker, and a number of stacking chairs from unanimous well wishers.

Sister H (Lauren Harry), Wendy Grenada and Arnold Gulab, GCC members and associates, will all be in Guyana to assist with the distribution of the donations, which will certainly bring some happy faces and smiles to the children and persons in need. You, our donors, the volunteers, members and executives of GCC have all contributed to make this happen and we thank you all for your assistance. Our gratitude also goes out to two organizations in Guyana that play a significant role for us by contributing unselfishly and continuously over the years to assist GCC to realize its mandate. These organizations are John Fernandes Ltd. (especially Billy Fernandes) who receives and arranges for the delivery of all items to the different organizations and individuals throughout Guyana; and Food For The Poor (FFTP), our consignee (Leon Davis and his staff) who clear our shipments through the Customs Agency before delivery.

Please help us continue our charitable activities. If you have usable articles in good condition, to donate, would like to become a member, a volunteer or need information about the organization, do not hesitate to call one of the following:

Terry DeFreitas	-	416-438-5992
Anne Marie Reigber	-	416-755-6958
Stephen Choo-Wing	-	905-420-2789
Desmond deBarros	-	905-837-0135
Kumar Singh	-	416-498-9962
Elizabeth Abdool	-	416-912-6814

Check us out at our website: <http://www.gcccanada.org>

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another. -- Charles Dickens

## THE GROUPS THAT WE CURRENTLY HELP ...

From time to time we are asked:

*"Who are you folks helping?"*

Ambassador of Christ Ministries	Mercy Wings Vocational School
Ameridian Hospice Care	National Commission on Disabilities
Anglican Diocese of Guyana	New Amsterdam Prisons
Arnold Gulab	Palms, Brickdam
Agricola Library	Paradise Community Outreach
Berbice Anjuman Orphanage	Pakaraima Mission
Buxton Beacon Community	Parika Outfall Neighbourhood Foundation
Beacon Foundation	Prabhu Sharan Orphanage
Bright Horizon Family Home	Rumveldt Children's Aid Centre
Buxton/ Friendship Golden Age Seniors' Group	St. Ann's Girls Orphanage
Camal International Home	St. Anthony Church, Bartica
Charlotte Street Wesleyan Church	St. Bernadette's Hostel
Charlotte Street Wesleyan Church - Muslim Organization	Saxacally Presbyterian Mission
Drop in Centre for Street Children	Shaheed's Boys & Girls Orphanages
Dharam Shala	St. Cuthbert's Mission
Enmore Clinic	St. Francis Xavier R.C. Church
Billy Fernandes - Literacy and Counselling Programmes	St. Ignatius Mission, Lethem
Friends of Archer Home	St. John Bosco Boys Orphanage
Fr. John Persaud	St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
Guardian Angels Parish	St. Joseph the Worker, Linden
Guyana National Library	St. Paul's Catholic Church, Helena Mahaica
Georgetown Prisons	Santa Rosa Mission
Guyana Presbyterian Church	Santa Rosa Secondary School
Guyana Red Cross	St. Vincent de Paul (Sacred Heart)
Guyana Society for the Prevention of cruelty to animals	St. Vincent de Paul (New Amsterdam)
Guyana Sevashram Sangha (Hindu College)	St. Vincent de Paul Society, St Thomas More Conference
Hobodeia Arukamail Village, Region 1	True Vision
Heavenly Light Temple	Uncle Eddie's Home
Hopetown Primary School	University of Guyana
Hosororo Mission	Volunteer Youth Corps
Help and Shelter	Wendy Grenada
J.F.(John Fernandes) Medic	Young Women's Christian Association
Joshua Children Centre	<b>HOSPITALS</b>
Kitty Jamaat Complex	Davis Memorial Hospital
Leonora Hindu Temple	Lethem Hospital
Lusignan Prisons	Mackenzie (Linden) Hospital
Mercy Boys Home	Ministry of Health - Bartica Hospital
Mahaica Children's Home	Mabaruma Hospital
Mahaica Hospital Patients	Ministry of Health - New Amsterdam
Church of the Annunciaton Missionaries of Charity, Georgetown	Ministry of Health - Suddie Hospital
Missionaries of Charity, New Amsterdam	Public Hospital ,Georgetown
Mazaruni Prisons	Public Hospital ,Georgetown
Mothers' Union Day Care Centre	St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital

## Can You Help Us?

As usual we need Volunteers to help us carry out our programs in a variety of areas. Whether you are able to volunteer once, once a week, or once a month, we can certainly use your assistance!

- On an ongoing basis we need people to sort articles received for forwarding to our Charities in Guyana.
- Often we are requested to pick-up items donated from various locations in the GTA – we need people for this.
- We assign, pack and record items for the various Charities – we need packers.
- Twice a year when we ship containers to Guyana – we need people to load the containers.
- Each year our Food and Bake Sale gets bigger and bigger. Thank you for your support ... however, we need more people to cook and bake!
- Our Spring and Fall Dances are catered by us ... if you can assist us by preparing some goodies towards these events we would love to hear from you.

**You can see – there are a variety of ways in which you can help us. Do you fit into any of these categories? Can you help?**

**We** volunteers share one thing in common: *we want to help improve the lives of the individuals and families.*

Thank you all .....our fantastic volunteers!



## SPECIAL NEEDS

Kindly help us support the homeless and those in need. We need the following items on an ongoing basis:

- Gently used household items, clothing, shoes (all ages including children and babies), kitchen utensils, bed sheets (double and singles).
- Stethoscopes, wheelchairs, bath chairs, walkers, crutches, commodes, home care medications, cough medications, pain relievers and ladies and men undergarments (e.g. Depends).
- Bicycles (any amount), sewing machines, back packs, balls (soccer and basketball)
- Backpacks, blankets, toothpaste, shampoo, skin cream, deodorant, etc.
- Financial contributions of any size are always welcome as well.

Your generous response to our special needs is greatly appreciated. Thank you!  
For more information, call  
**Kumar Singh 416-498-9962**

**YES! I WANT TO HELP**

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

General  Bernard Memorial Education Scholarship

In Memory/Honour  Marian Academy  St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

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/ email list

My address has been changed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**



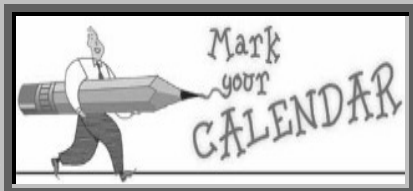
**W**e would like to express our sincere sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased persons and our appreciation for listing Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. to receive donations in lieu of flowers:

*Patricia Fernandes*

*John Vincent Williams*

*Peter de Freitas*

*"My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you"*  
*Margaret Fishback Powers*



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011

### Come Join us and Enjoy

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
12, 2011  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**VALENTINE DINNER & DANCE**  
Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall  
1490 Markham Road  
(North of 401 – Entrance on Milner Avenue)  
**Music: BAND: Triple Play  
& D.J.:**

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 28,  
2011  
at 7:30 p.m.**

**SPRING DANCE**  
Pickering Recreation Complex  
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --  
(Liverpool and Highway 2)  
**Music: Band: } T.B.A.  
D.J.: }**

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER  
24, 2011  
at 7:30 p.m.**

**FALL DANCE**  
Pickering Recreation Complex  
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --  
(Liverpool and Highway 2)  
**Music: Band: } T.B.A.  
D.J.: }**

#### Tickets can be obtained for the dances from:



Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956  
Mike Gonsalves -- 416-420-0565  
Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135  
Dennis Choy -- 905-837-0434  
Theresa Gonsalves -- 416-284-2496  
Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526  
or Any GCC Member

**SUNDAY  
October 30,  
2011  
AT 1:00 P.M.**

**ANNUAL FOOD FAIR  
AND BAKE SALE**  
Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall  
1490 Markham Road  
(North of 401 – Entrance on Milner Avenue)  
**Free Admission**

#### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

1. THE BERNARD GONSALVES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
2. MARIAN ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you would like to assist in this program, please contact  
Karen Heifa .....

416-287-2526 or email [kheifa@rogers.com](mailto:kheifa@rogers.com)

## BEST WISHES TO DANNY DOOBAY

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. was informed of "the demitting of office of the Hon. Consul General, Danny Doobay effective October 31, 2010".

We would like to thank him for his co-operation during his tenure as Consul General for Guyana. We take this opportunity to wish him all the very best in his future endeavours.

### Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q. How many areas of biological interest have been identified for a National Protected Area System in Guyana?

A. About 14 areas of biological interest have been identified as possible hotspots for a National Protected Area System. Guyana has one of the largest unspoiled rainforests in South America, some parts of which are almost inaccessible by humans. More than 80% of Guyana is still covered by forests, ranging from dry evergreen and seasonal forests to mountain and lowland evergreen rain forests. These forests are home to more than a thousand species of trees. Guyana's tropical climate, unique geology, and relatively pristine ecosystems support extensive areas of species-rich rain forests and natural habitats which is endemic to Guyana. Approximately eight thousand species of plants occur in Guyana, half of which are found nowhere else. Guyana is one of the countries with the highest biodiversity in the world. Guyana, with 1,168 vertebrate species, 1,600 bird species, boasts one of the richest mammalian fauna assemblages of any comparably sized area in the world.

## 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](mailto:stanandmarg@yahoo.com)

"One of the things I keep learning is that the secret of being happy is doing things for other people." -- Dick Gregory

