

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, ON M1V 4Z6 -- Tel. No. 416-293-8622

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuyanaChristianCharities>

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001



VOLUME 53

**Celebrating  
our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

October 2017

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## Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. recognized in New York

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. has selected Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) as one of its recipients to receive an Award for 2017, acknowledging GCC for its endeavors, which is indicative of the Guyanese cultural heritage and its inspiration.



Donna Johnson (centre)  
a Guyanese resident in  
New York accepted the  
award on behalf of  
Guyana Christian Charities.

This Award was given to GCC in recognition of the organization's *three decades of dedicated assistance to community service in Guyana, particularly notable for the range of amenities provided to a cross-section of beneficiaries in the wide geographic span of Guyana.*

The 2017 honorees are spread across the Guyanese Diaspora. They reside in Paraguay, the United States of America, Canada, and Guyana. Their predominant areas of impact have positively enriched Guyanese in the various forms and sectors. Compatriots have achieved significant accomplishments in visual arts, architecture, linguistics, journalism, education, community service, and as cultural enablers.

The Guyana Cultural Association has promoted the contributions of some of the leading artists, educators, and cultural enablers to the Guyanese society in the 20th century since 2001. Awardees are selected by a committee that evaluates each nomination considering attributes in its published criteria that incorporate originality, scope, impact/influence, integration, pioneering spirit, challenges, and achievements. The primary objective of the Awards is to convey its high regard for the achievements of each Awardee.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2017-2018)

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**DESMOND DE BARROS**

## 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*

# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all our readers!



First let me say what an honour it has been for me to serve as President of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. over the past 8-years. We are a vital organization doing important charitable work in this difficult global time. Congratulations to you all for the hard work that you have done over the past several years.

My involvement with GCC takes me back to the early days of holding bake sales in church basements in order to raise funds for the two orphanages in Guyana. As reported in our last newsletter, this group was eventually merged with another group formed at the request of Fr. Harold Wong to raise funds for the replacement of the organ at the Brickdam Cathedral. With this 'merger' we became a bigger and stronger group ... eventually becoming Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. in 1987.

From the inception, I have been surrounded by a group of competent Board of Directors and Members, who actively worked to shape the direction of this very prestigious organization.

I am a firm believer that if we are to succeed, in addition to our finances being maintained in good shape, we must continue to focus on **Communication...Team-Work...Democratic...Decision-making...and Transparency.** These key areas have been practiced for the benefit of those we assist and not for personal or individual honour. GCC got to where it is today – 30 years plus – as a successful and respected organization in our Community as a result of these key areas.

Thank you to all of you who have been of assistance to me during my tenure on the Board over the many years.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new incoming **President, Dexter Gonsalves**, and to offer my assistance as necessary, as I continue as a Director of the organization. I also wish the returning Board Member, Rahana Khan and the incoming officers every success in their endeavors... and a BIG thank you to Henry Tiam-Fook, who served as a Director for the past few years.

I have great confidence that working in partnership with our new Board, and collectively with our members and volunteers, donors and supporters ... we will make the necessary decisions to move us forward together from strength to strength.

God bless each of you and your families for all that you do to assist the needy, especially in the Guyanese Community ... and remember ... **THE BEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO.**

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Abdool*

Past President/Director



**Together we make a difference**

A team is more than a collection of people. It is a process of give and take.

Barbara Glacel & Emile Robert Jr.

## PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



On September 9, 2017, the second and final shipment for 2017 left Canada for Guyana. This 40 ft. container included 825 pieces/boxes valued at about \$21,000. and consisted of used men's, women's and children's clothing, toys, school supplies, food items, household supplies, medical supplies and appliances, bicycles, wheelchairs, walkers, books and sports equipment.

The shipment is scheduled to arrive in Guyana September 28, 2017, in time for the Christmas Season. The consignees of these donations will extend to all parts of Guyana and will greatly assist in improving the lives of the less fortunate, thus helping to make the Festive Season more enjoyable.

Thanks to all our supporters in Canada who continue to make these donations, and also our volunteers who make this possible by donating their time and efforts. Please continue to make your contributions by calling any of the following:

Terry De Freitas	416-438-5992
Anne Marie Reigber	416-755-6958
Stephen Choo-Wing	905-420-2789
Kumar Singh	416-498-9962
Dexter Gonsalves	416-293-8622

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!**

## One of our key 'on-the-ground in Guyana' Volunteers & Member has retired

**Wendy Grenada** had, for many...many...years been one of our key contacts on location in Guyana to guide us and report on needs and circumstances.

Wendy was employed by Beacon Foundation but continued to be our eyes and our ears ... and our feet!

From time to time Wendy visited her daughter in Canada and it was always a pleasure to meet with her and get 'first-hand' information about the various charities' needs in Guyana. She would often stop by our packing facility to request certain items on hand be sent to specific charities requiring such items.

Wendy – thank you so very much for all that you did for Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. **AND** for the sick, the poor and those in need in Guyana. They will miss you as much as we will.

Please accept our best wishes for good health and a long and enjoyable retirement and may you be blessed for all that you have done.

*"Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another."  
George Eliot*

**Helen Browman** has resigned as CEO at Mercy Hospital. She has worn many senior management hats at Mercy since assuming the role of Administrator after Sister Sheila Walsh left many years ago. Helen has been very supportive to John O'Connor and to Guyana Christian Charities. We all join in wishing her all the best in her new endeavors.

# WHO IS A VOLUNTEER



**Volunteerism** is the practice of doing something for good causes, by contributing time, effort and talent, without being paid for doing so. While there are no financial gains by helping others including the less fortunate, **there are lots of other personal benefits, which can have a positive impact on your health and well-being, as it makes you feel good and proud of yourself.**

The volunteering sector has long been an enabler and driver of equitable growth in most countries, and as such, has made a significant contribution to the welfare of the community. It is very difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer time. **Volunteers provide many intangibles that cannot be easily quantified.** For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects. Someone once said to be a volunteer, it takes: **generosity; understanding; empathy; compassion, patience; and dedication.**

Top volunteers are the people on whom charitable and non-profit organizations rely most heavily. They are the people who are deeply committed and who dedicate the greatest number of hours to their volunteer work.

The Ontario Government recognizes the major benefits and awards medals that are achieved by many, including volunteers of GCC. Each year GCC nominates some of its members for these awards. Congratulations are extended to the following GCC's volunteers who have received these awards for 2017:

<b>Philip Gulab</b>	<b>25 years</b>
<b>Vanessa Chambers</b>	<b>20 years</b>
<b>Jeannette Rowan</b>	<b>15 years</b>
<b>Arthur Veerasammy</b>	<b>15 years</b>
<b>Ann Bhagwan</b>	<b>15 years</b>
<b>Rose Mouncey</b>	<b>10 years</b>

These awards are given to volunteers who have assisted in charitable organizations for a period of 5, 10, 15 or 20 years.

GCC would also like to pay **tribute to all of its past and current members, volunteers, donors, sponsors and helpers who have supported us and continue to do so in the future.** Your assistance truly makes a difference in the lives of the children and adults that we serve -- so thank you for all that you do.

The world has witnessed major achievements through volunteerism.

***"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*** **Mahatma Gandhi.**

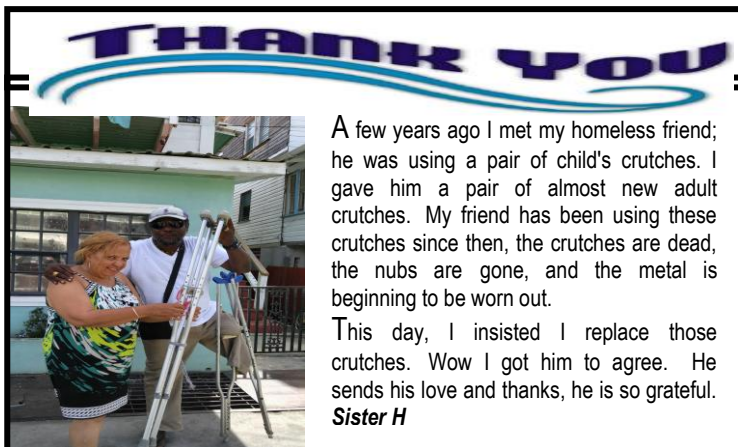
If you are willing to be a **Volunteer**, you can choose the area that is most desirable to you -- *assisting at our fundraising events; shipping and packing; and/or administrative by giving input into article for our newsletter, etc. and/or collating the record of the organization.* **Also High School Students** can assist in the same manner and

use your volunteer hours towards your community service requirements. We need you!

**Come join us ..... by calling GCC..... 905-428-3883**

Volunteering is also an opportunity to meet friends, learn new skills and put existing ones to good use. It's also a chance to be part of a team that makes a transformation to many people who are in need.

**Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!** **Anne Frank**



A few years ago I met my homeless friend; he was using a pair of child's crutches. I gave him a pair of almost new adult crutches. My friend has been using these crutches since then, the crutches are dead, the nubs are gone, and the metal is beginning to be worn out.

This day, I insisted I replace those crutches. Wow I got him to agree. He sends his love and thanks, he is so grateful. **Sister H**

I do sincerely apologize for my late "thank you" for the gifts from "Guyana Christian Charities". Seven (7) cartons and one (1) suitcase were uplifted by me ..... The cartons contained quite an assortment of clothing, books, kitchen items and office supplies. The suitcase contained assorted toys and clothing. I observed that there was a request from your office asking for a listing of things received altogether.....arduous task. I wish to thank you and the staff at Guyana Christian Charities for all the help that I have received and I thank God that there are still people who care..... I pray that God will give you and your staff the health and strength to carry out the task which you have undertaken. May you all have a wonderful and blessed 2017. **Father Raymond Coxall**

Thanks so much for the twelve boxes you so generously sent for the patients for the Interior. I do appreciate the kindness of all. It is always so good to be able to bring a smile on the faces of those who have no relatives, as most of them are from the remote areas of our Interior, and sometimes are in hospital with no clothing etc.

The kids especially who are suffering from leukemia, and have to be there for a very long time, are the ones that are most in need of games and books. Your generosity has helped my hospital ministry and I am very thankful to all. I also would like to thank Mr. Gobin and John Fernandes Shipping for their kindness. May God Bless you all. **Pat Pierre.**

**GCC'S Newsletters can be viewed on our Website**

If you are not already on our mailing/email lists, you could view and/or print our newsletter from our **website <http://www.gcccanada.org>.**

You can also **request to receive our newsletter via email instead of through the mail**, by advising us either through our email address: **[gcccaninc@gmail.com](mailto:gcccaninc@gmail.com)** or telephone # **416-293-8622**

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# Flashback



## .....one of GCC's first recipients.....St. Ann's Orphanage

This institution begun way back in July of 1851 and is a home and refuge for many unfortunate girls for many a years. St Ann's has accommodated as many as 102 children at one time or the other. The girls remain until they have completed secondary education, job security, and then they move on once they can support themselves. Many of the girls at St Ann's attend the Marian Academy. Each child going there has to have a sponsor to pay the fees. Many people have given generously to this cause. St Ann's has no definite income. Some generous people continue to give donations each year. **St. Ann's continues to keep its doors open through the kindness and generosity of caring Guyanese locally and abroad. Each day, a miracle unfolds with a simple knock on the door and/or a small donation of some kind.**

### Recent report.

The girls are enjoying a short break before their summer program starts so three of them have made time to write some of their own stories.

#### Aminah Blackman, story of my life

I am Aminah Blackman. I am eleven years old. I attend Marian Academy. I am going over to grade six-one. My favourite subjects are Mathematics, English and Spanish. Every level I go into the work gets harder so I have to study for them. I am going to tell you all about my happy and fun time at St. Ann's. When Sr. Barbara brought me here I was so excited I couldn't wait to see what inside was all about. When Sr. Barbara took me inside I saw many strange faces excepting my sister Angelique Blackman. I was only three years old when I came into St. Ann's. Sr. Barbara who was the head of the house of St. Ann's introduce me to all the lovely caring adults and children. She also got someone to take good care of me. I made friends like Gabby, Tracey, Solomie and Aliyah. My friends show me all part of the big house. Sr. Barbara send me to one of the good school I have ever wanted to go. They also pay my school fees, I am happy here in St. Ann's my home for now. I thank all the Sisters for taking good care of me and being careful, loving and kind to me. Also thank you all the lovely people who send money and other things for me.



#### End of school year update 2017:

We received the 17 boxes of wonderful goods this week, I wish I had taken a picture of the girls as the never ending parade of boxes came in, Christmas came early for them, a few of the games and puzzles are already in circulation. We are as always very grateful for your generosity.

The last few weeks have been very busy, as the girls finished up their exams and we have been planning many activities to keep them busy during the summer break. The summer program starts next week.

We have embroidery, craft making and sewing classes set up for most of the girls. Because of the age range we have had to make some leisure time for our smaller girls as the older girls take part in the cosmetology activity (suitable makeup and hair style for church, job interviews and future work).

We have currently ten girls who have reached the age to leave us. However, due to the fact that we have not found adequate and appropriate accommodation, we are giving them additional work here such as assisting the chef, gardener and with laundry. We are trying to get these girls to take more of a leadership role in the home.

Of these ten girls, three have engaged in a work study program at DIH Banks and a fourth Naomi Sookdass has been moved to another store outlet and is hoping it will turn into a permanent position.

Rebecca Marco has found a job locally making \$12,000/week. I am very pleased with her and Kesha Ross who just started working at Regency Electronics. I believe Kesha's success motivated her older sister Yolanda to start interviewing and yesterday she was offered a job, I don't have all the details yet but it is nice to see these girls starting the next stage in their lives.

This year has been a good year for many of our school age girls also. Lisa Mendonca and her basketball team won the U-19 basketball final and she was awarded her medal last week. Her photo was in the newspaper. We are very proud of her.

Last Thursday I attended Marian Academy for the end of year award giving and a number of our girls were recognized for their efforts. Shevon Williams has successfully completed the one year remedial program and she is very happy with her Certificate of Achievement.

We are grateful to you for opening your hearts and providing the funding for our work. We pray that God will continue to bless you all in everything you do. **Sr. Leonie De Costa, OSU**

**Father Kenneth MacAulay** of the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society died peacefully on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

Fr. Ken MacAulay was ordained to the priesthood on December 19, 1953. In 1954, he was appointed to British Guiana (Guyana) and served at Our Lady of Fatima parish, Georgetown and was pastor there from 1958 until 1963, when he was recalled to Canada for some specialized studies then was appointed to various positions in Canada. He returned to his beloved Guyana from 1974–1977 where he was parish priest at Church of the Ascension in New Amsterdam.

Fr. MacAulay was again recalled to Canada and elected as Superior General of the Society in 1978 and served in that capacity until 1987. From this time, he was always a big supporter of Guyana Christian Charities ... often attending our Food and Bake Sales and purchasing the many Guyanese items that he missed so much.

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. extends its sympathy to Fr. MacAulay's relatives and to all the Priests and Staff at the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society. May he rest in peace.

## “Lessons Learned From Intentionally Letting Go”

Are you holding onto 60% more stuff than you need *because* of the emotional attachment, etc. hoping that that you might use again someday? If you look objectively at those items you might find you most probably would not use them again. Letting go of some good things we do not need can be helpful to others and could make a change in the lives of many.

Guyana Christian Charities has been blessed by such generous donations from our supporters who have “**Learned Lessons from Intentionally Letting Go**”.

We hope that if you can re-consider ‘**Letting Go**’ of some of the stuff you really are just holding on to by saying: ‘*Maybe I’ll need this someday*’...that you would keep us in mind!!!

“Use for yourself little, but give to others much.” — Albert Einstein

## Our Yearly Major Fundraising Events

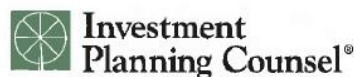
February	Valentine Dinner/Dance	Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall (Markham Road and 401)
May & September	Spring & Autumn Dances	Pickering Recreation Complex (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds. -- South of Highway 2)
October	Food and Bake Sale	

**Other fundraising sources** include donations from individuals, and our “In Memoriam” Program, as well as various activities to respond to emergency requests for assistance.

### Guyana's History

You thought you knew

Q.	Which country did BBC telecast the ‘Lost Land of the Jaguar’?
A.	Guyana, with its vast areas of rainforests and considers to be the most unspoiled rainforests in the world. Almost 80% of this country is covered by forests, which boast of rich biodiversity with some endemic and some atypical species of plants and animals.
Q.	Where is Guyana located?
A.	Guyana is geographically located to the North of the Equator, on the northern coastal regions of South America. Guyana ranks third among the smallest countries on the South American mainland. It shares international borders with Brazil in the south and southwest, Suriname in the east and Venezuela in the west.
Q.	What are the various types of habitats in Guyana?
A.	Guyana has different types of habitats such as marine, coastal, littoral, swamp, estuarine, palustrine, riverine, mangrove, lacustrine, savanna, brown sand forest, montane, cloud forest, white sand forest, moist lowland and dry evergreen scrub forests.



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## Valentine Dinner and Dance

Saturday, February 10, 2018 @ 7.30 p.m.

St. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall  
231 Milner Avenue, Scarborough, ON

(Entrance on Milner Ave. - north of Hwy 401, west of Markham Rd.)



## Spring Dance

Saturday May 19, 2018 @ 7.30 p.m.

Pickering Recreation Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering

(Between Liverpool & Brock Rds. -- South of Highway 2)



## Fall Dance

Saturday September 22, 2018 @ 7.30 p.m.

Pickering Recreation Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering

(Between Liverpool & Brock Rds. -- South of Highway 2)

Secure your Tickets for these dances early



Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956

Mike Gonsalves 416-420-0565

Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883

Dennis Choy 905-839-0434

Karen Heifa 416-720-6902



or.... any GCC Member or.... email: [gcccaninc@gmail.com](mailto:gcccaninc@gmail.com)



## Annual

## Food Fair & Bake Sale

Free Admission

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28, 2018

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pickering Recreation Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering

(Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.)

South of Highway 2

New Donors

Please contact: Pansy Hsan 905-426-6099

## Give a Helping Hand

THREE EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP  
Guyana Christian Charities ...

1. PRAY FOR OUR CONTINUED SURVIVAL;
2. Volunteer with ONE of our many AREAS of NEED;
3. SUPPORT US financially - OUR ORGANIZATION DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY.

### YES! I WANT TO HELP

- ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other
- ☐ GENERAL ☐ BERNARD GONSALVES MEMORIAL FUND
- ☐ IN MEMORY ☐ St. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL FUND
- ☐ TRIBUTE

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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Receipts are issued for donations of \$20 and over

Your donation of \$10.00 or more is tax-deductible. A receipt will be mailed, if so requested. CHARITABLE NO. 89096-5643-RR0001.

Please send your cheque and this form to:

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6

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/email List
- ☐ My address has been changed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6

### COULD YOU HELP GCC?

- ☐ 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 ☐ PACKING for shipments
- ☐ DANCE ☐ TRANSPORTING donated items

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

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**WITH SYMPATHY**  
*Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord*

Members would like to express their sympathy to the families of members, volunteers, donors, and supporters of GCC, who have passed since our last newsletter, and in particular:

Camille De Castro  
Brian Godfrey Hale  
Joan Gomes  
Fr. Ken MacAulay SFM

Malcolm Pequenezza  
Edward Pires  
Paula Ann Pires  
Max Chung Tiam-Fook

Annette Cecile Van Sluytman  
Morna Singh  
Elaine Williams  
Alvaro Vasconcellos

Sincere thanks to those who listed Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. to receive donations in lieu of flowers.  
The families of our deceased brothers and sisters thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy.

**Our newly opened facility  
has the largest chapel in the GTA  
and a beautiful new Lounge/Reception area.**



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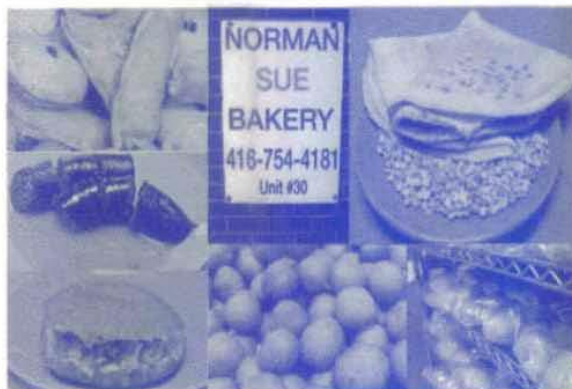
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## Norman Sue Bakery Ltd.



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