

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



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Ultra Sound Machines

Kumar Singh

In September 2018, Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) shipped four (4) Ultrasound Machines to the Ministry of Public Health in Guyana. These were donated to GCC and were shipped to Guyana to improve healthcare to its citizens across the country.

The Ministry of Public Health acknowledged receipt and thanked GCC for this major donation. A transcript of the letter forwarded by email fully expressed the sentiments.

16th January, 2019

Guyana Christian Charities
805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5
Scarborough, ON M1V 4Z6
Dear Mr. Gonsalves,

Re: Letter of Appreciation for Ultrasound Machines

On behalf of the Ministry of Public Health's International Desk, I am honoured and pleased to recognize the contribution of Guyana Christian Charities, which has assisted towards the improvement of Guyana's health sector.

Since its inception in the late 1970's, this dynamic group of Guyanese located in Canada has been assisting the Guyana populace, either financially or tangibly in the health sector. Thus it is with great pride that I recognize this diaspora-led initiative and the impact of this successful partnership.

Guyana Christian Charities has demonstrated tremendous, selfless commitment to the development of Guyana and on behalf of the Ministry of Public Health, I express my sincere appreciation to them for their continued support.

The Ministry of Public Health reiterates its commitment to Guyana Christian Charities to further develop this partnership to advance healthcare in Guyana.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Councillor Denroy L. Tudor
Coordinator – International Desk

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 (2019 – 2020)

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Dexter Gonsalves 416-293-8622	Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Pansy Hsan 905-426-6099	Karen Heifa 416-720-6902
DIRECTORS			
Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956	Stephen Choo-Wing 905-420-2789	Rahana Khan 416-540-5255
			Anne Marie Reigber 416-755-6958

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our readers!

Dear Members, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends:

The beginning of the New Year offers us the opportunity for reflection.

Firstly, I want to begin by saying big "Thank You" for making 2018 another year, in which Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) was in a position to provide much essential services, particularly to those less fortunate in Guyana, and elsewhere.

Our dedicated GCC volunteers have done an outstanding job responding to the requests of those we serve. In addition, we have had tremendous community aid from our supporters (this includes those who baked, cooked, and/or otherwise gave substantial assistance in various ways) as well as those who supported and attended our main fundraising events.

We have also witnessed an increase in responses to our four main fundraising events (the three dances and the bake sale). This has helped to boost our revenue and in turn, we are able to support, on a monetary basis, certain organizations in Guyana, who look after the needs of the less fortunate.

Unfortunately, I have sadly to report that we lost one of our oldest and faithful members, Desmond de Barros, who passed on November 3, 2018. He was the first President of GCC. He will be sadly missed not only for his humor, but for his dedication, kindness and loyalty. A Tribute can be found in this newsletter. As well, we have also been advised of the death of one of your volunteer/member and supporter, Mr. Cecil Farinha. May they both rest in peace.

Our goal is to continue our efforts to be one of the leaders in our community responding to the requests of those less fortunate. There is much to be done and I hope I can count on your continued support in the future. Thanks!

In closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your assistance, guidance and support. I am confident that GCC will always continue to play a vital role in the community for generations to come and I would like to stress that your participating support is vital to our organization.

Summer will soon be here, and I would like to wish each of you a healthy and enjoyable one.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Dexter Gonsalves

President

PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



Kumar Singh

During the year 2018, GCC obtained, sorted, packed and shipped two (2) 40 ft. containers of donated items to Guyana. These items were packed into 1,564 boxes, valued at about \$52,837.00 and distributed to over ninety (90) different charitable organizations. This has helped several hundred of individuals across Guyana regardless of age, color or religion.

Since its registration in 1988, GCC has continued to contribute to the needy in Guyana with a wide variety of items, and financial support to achieve our objective in "**providing aid and assistance to Guyanese organizations, individuals and others in need**".

In this regard, GCC has successfully met its Mission. This was achieved by the support we received and continue to receive from a large number of people in Toronto and in Canada on the whole.

Our annual fundraising events, e.g. Valentine Dance, Spring and Fall Dances, and the Bake and Food Sale are very popular and well attended. Our supporters continue to provide usable items, financial donations and encouraging words to motivate our Executive Members and Volunteers to be successful in our undertakings.

Several of our Members and Volunteers are recognized by the Ontario Government by awarding them with the Volunteer Service Awards. You can be a part of this success by getting involved. Please call us to discuss. Together we can make a big difference to improve the lives of so many less fortunate people in Guyana.

Please contact the following members if you are interested in participating in our organization:

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

Q.	What is the origin of the word Mashramani?
A.	The word Mashramani, meaning " <i>the celebration of a job well done</i> ," and is of Amerindian in origin.
Q.	Name two group of animals that are of the rarest species in Guyana
A.	Giant otter and harpy eagle are the two rarest species found in Guyana
Q.	What prevented flooding in Guyana in the past?
A.	The system of Dykes in the coastal areas of Guyana which was introduced by the Dutch to prevent flooding.



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.

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Nursing Students



Rev. John O'Connor was once again in Guyana during the latter part of 2018, providing training for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Nursing students. We are so happy to be associated with John. This was his 17th year volunteering with the hospital.

The students say a "BIG THANK YOU" to the many people who donated toward their tablet computers.

Here are their happy faces after receiving your gifts of tablets.



These invaluable tablets assist them to do their studying and research online. It is a big gift for them....for some, it is the biggest gift they have ever received. So far, the tablets are holding up in the heat and the humidity at least as well as in other years. And, as students do all over the world, they now complain that he gives them too much research (homework).

The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green."

Thomas Carlyle



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GCC receives many **"Thank-You's"**, sometimes too numerous to list. Below is one recently received:

T.Teixeira, Palms Institution: "Season greetings to you and members of your organization. Administration thanks you so much for your continued support shown towards our Residents every year. Your donation was well received and we look forward to your continued generosity in the future. We received a total of 14 boxes with items that were useful, suitable and matched our requests, along with crutches, walkers and a wheelchair. We are satisfied with what was donated, hopefully a few more hygienic products such as body creams, perfumes, baby powders, etc. would be gratefully accepted. Thank you so much for asking, we appreciate your kindness shown every year. **Note:** I hope you received the copy of the receipt displaying the purchase of phones that was deducted from the \$400.00 Canadian Dollars that was donated by your organization. Have a bless day"

Wish List

Items Needed for Seniors: All types of Hygienic products such as:

- body creams,
- perfumes
- baby powders
- shampoo
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- feminine products
- deodorants
- soaps
- body wash
- hand sanitizer
- dental floss

"For it is in giving that we receive."

— St. Francis of Assisi



including **STUDENTS**

Volunteering at GCC provides you with a unique opportunity to interact with persons who previously worked in various sectors of businesses, while performing a vital role in our organization and for the community.

Student volunteers could lend a hand and get involved in a diverse range of activities on Saturdays. Being part of our GCC family will allow you to develop skills and make connections with other student leaders, and also engage with members of GCC in numerous ways.

Perks for students include: *A welcome letter; T-shirt; Back pack; letter of reference with completion of 40 hours; Volunteer Certificate with completion of 40 hours; appreciation party and socials at our dances and bake sale; opportunity to learn to work with other volunteers in baking – cooking – packing – admin. work, etc.*

When you volunteer, you experience personal satisfaction that comes from helping someone in need. Your caring and understanding make a difference in the lives of many.

Contact:

Kumar Singh 416-498-9962 for further information.

Seven Surprising Benefits Of Volunteering

1. Volunteering may help you live longer.
2. Volunteering can make you less lonely.
3. Volunteering helps improve social life.
4. Volunteering may ease your anxiety and depression.
5. Volunteering can keep you physically active.
6. Volunteering helps you develop new skills.
7. Volunteering makes you feel like you have more time.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Sherry Anderson

Interested in ...

/baking/Cooking/making goodies?



How about making some of those lovely pastries, etc. that you thoroughly enjoy!

Join our seasoned volunteers and turn your spare time into social good – and assist GCC to prepare items for our Annual Bake and Food Sale!!!

- **Up your skills** and discover new recipes with help from our experienced bakers and cooks.
- **Learn the skills** and recipes of a special item you might want to do for family, friends or yourself.

Contact us by

phone: 416-293-8622 -- **email:** info@gcccanada.org

Do you know.....

You can request that your United Way contributions be specifically designated to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. – Kindly contact your Human Resources/Personnel Department.



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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, supporters and friends of GCC, who have passed since our last newsletter, and in particular:

Desmond de Barros Daphne Chabrol	Cecil Farinha Vibert Anthony Mahanger M.D. (Florida)	Alan Maxwell Rutherford Sidney van Batenburg-Stafford Peter Thakordyal
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The families of our deceased brothers and sisters thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy.

Sincere thanks to those who listed Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

Tribute

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) is saddened at the passing of its loyal and dedicated **Honorary Director and Past President, Desmond de Barros**, who passed on November 3, 2018. Desmond was the first President of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC). He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 63 years, Joan Gloria de Barros, whose great life work was her involvement with charity and faith and who was also a Director. She was also a stalwart and dedicated member of GCC and the Guyana Burn and Health Care Unit (Caribbean North Charities Foundation), to name a few.

Desmond was born in January 1925 in Georgetown, British Guiana (Guyana) and was the only child of Muriel Cox and Arthur Clement de Barros. He had many interests including: tennis; field hockey; football/soccer; rifle target shooting; cooking and social events. In Guyana, he was a member of the Guyana Defense Force in his young adulthood. His natural warmth, diplomacy and love of unifying served him well in all of his pursuits and he established life-long friendships through these activities.

Desmond and Joan migrated to Canada in 1963, but never turned their backs on the people of Guyana, as they both devoted their lives in Canada to helping Guyanese and those in need. They were both presented by the Honorable Consul General of Guyana with "The Lifetime Achievement Leadership Award", in recognition for their great services through the two specific organizations, Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and The Guyana Burn and Health Care Unit (Caribbean North Charities Foundation), which they helped to establish. Their active community service and commitment to Guyana continue to inspire other Guyanese-Canadians to do likewise.

Desmond was a strong pillar in GCC and a mentor to many of the members and volunteers even to the end of his life, where he attended the GCC Bake Sale on the Sunday before he passed to give support to this event. He was loved by all – young and old alike and his sense of humor never ceased. He will be missed by many people who lives he touched and also those he helped during his lifetime through his charitable and compassionate actions.

Desmond will always be remembered as a man both strong and good, gave his best for others, did the best he could and brought joy to others. As a man, who made a difference and a man who meant greatly. It was only over the past few years that his health forced him to be less active. Despite Desmond's passing, his many charitable acts will go on providing aid and comfort to those in need.

To his children and grandchildren, great grandchildren and family, we offer our prayers and sincere sympathy as we share in their loss. May he rest in peace.

A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER/MEMBER AND SUPPORTER

GCC has only recently been advised of the demise of Mr. Cecil Farinha on December 5, 2018 in his 90th year. Mr. Farinha was a dedicated and wonderful volunteer/member and supporter for many years. He assisted in various projects of GCC, including the Bake Sale and packing. We are indeed grateful for having been blessed with his presence for so many years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Christine and family. May he rest in peace.

Come Join us and EnjoyOur yearly Events



Spring Dance

Saturday, May 18, 2019 @ 7.30 p.m.

Pickering Recreation Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering

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

Band: Triple Play -- D.J. RAAK



Fall Dance

Saturday, September 21, 2019 @ 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



Annual Bake & Food Sale

Free Admission

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27, 2019

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: _____

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:

☐ BAKE & FOOD SALE ☐ Packing for shipments

☐ DANCES

☐ TRANSPORTING donated items

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

email _____ Phone _____

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

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CALL US TO ADVERTISE

We publish two newsletters each year
(February and October)

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Email: dextergonsalves@bellnet.ca



Valentine's Day Sentiments

In case you haven't noticed
by now...you're kind of a
big deal to me.
- American Greetings

I love us....
always have, always will
-American Greetings

Love unlocks doors and
opens windows that weren't
even there before.
- Mignon McLaughlin

Every moment I spend
with you becomes a
beautiful memory.
- Author Unknown

Life is a journey, and love is
what makes that journey
worthwhile.
- Author Unknown

Roses are red, violets are
blue, flowers are nice, but
chocolate is too!
- Author Unknown

Anyone can catch your eye, but it
takes someone special to catch your
heart. - Author Unknown

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8 Steps To Becoming A Better Person in 2019

Step 1	Consider Your Impact on Others	Everything you say and do has some effect, positive or negative, on the people around you.
Step 2	Think Before You Speak	The fastest way to prevent hurting other people is to think of the ramifications of your words.
Step 3	Be a Humanitarian	Serving other people immediately improves who you are – not only in their eyes – but yours as well.
Step 4	Use Your Strengths	Make a list of what you do well and figure out how to use it in creative ways. Don't neglect your natural abilities or talents because they belong to you.
Step 5	Recognize Your Weaknesses	Addressing your weaknesses is a huge step toward becoming a better person, but remember, the goal isn't to be perfect. It's the striving to improve that makes us better people.
Step 6	Take Better Care of Yourself	When you take care of yourself, you demonstrate respect for yourself.
Step 7	Show Your Appreciation	It's easy to take other people for granted.
Step 8	Explore Your Spirituality	Faith allows you to get through some pretty challenging days. It also encourages you to improve yourself and strive to make a positive impact on those around you.

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary




Jeff Kioussis

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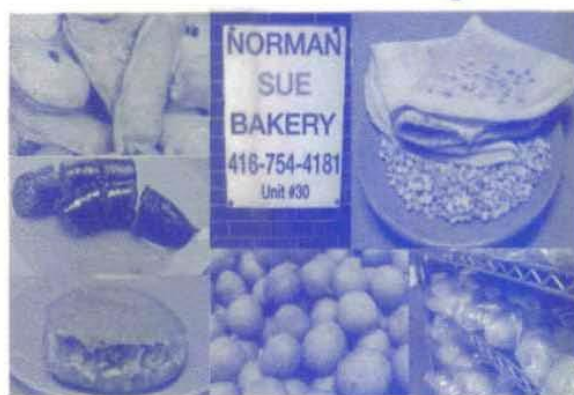
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