GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, ON M1V 4Z6 -- Tel. No. 416-912-6814

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At the Guyana 50th Anniversary Awards Gala held in Scarborough, Ontario, on October 1, 2016, extraordinary organizations and individuals of Guyanese heritage who have made a very significant contribution to Guyana and the Guyanese Diaspora in Canada were honored.

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) was presented with a Community Service Organization Award. Mr. Kumar Singh, Vice-President received this award on behalf of GCC – (See picture below on the left). This award honors and recognizes the hard work, dedication and commitment of our members, volunteers and supporters (past and present), who supported us in our Mission to providing aid and assistance to the poor and needy.





Presented by
Edith Bynoe (left) &
Winston Kassim (right)
Co-Chairs of Guyana's
50th Independence
Celebration.

GOLDEN JUBILEE AWARDS

Mr. Desmond de Barros & Mr. Conrad de Barros (See picture above on the right) also received a Community Service Individual Award in honor of their wife and mother Joan de Barros (decd.). Joan was one of the Founding members, a former director and an officer of GCC. She also participated on various committees in GCC, as needed. She was also a founding member for: Caribbean North Charities Foundation (originally known as Guyana Burn & Healthcare Charitable Foundation); St. Bartholomew Catholic Women's League; St. Rose's Alumni and the Stella and Flavio da Silva Scholarship Foundation. She was very dedicated and committed to these organizations and took an active part in all phases of activities.

(Contd. on page 3)

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our readers!

t is good to be with you again as you read this edition of GCC's Newsletter. We are grateful for your continued support of our work. Because of you, we are able to share love and mercy to various charities in Guyana.

Over the past several months many have heard the word MERCY over and over again. I recall coming across an article which included a sentence that remained with me. It went something like this ... "We are invited to receive God's mercy and to offer it to others by working for a kinder, more loving world, where everyone's basic needs are met and where all enjoy the dignity of being daughters and sons of God" I think and hope you agree that GCC is striving forward towards this direction.

In May we held our Annual General Meeting and, as required, we elected a Board of Directors for the upcoming year. On this occasion Rahana Khan who has been a Director since the year 2000, advised us that she was not going to be available for that position for the coming year. This meant the need for a replacement and we were very fortunate that Anne Marie Reigher accepted the nomination to replace Rahana. We take this opportunity to thank Rahana for her many years of service as a Director and appreciate her commitment to continue in most of the fund raising duties she currently undertakes. Rahana ... A BIG THANK YOU! We are happy to welcome back Anne Marie Reigber ... yes I say welcome 'back' because Anne Marie has held the position of Director on previous occasions....actually she was one of GCC's Inaugural Directors. Her hands are already full with the responsibility of our Packing Operations so we have promised her that other than attending Directors' Meetings, we will limit any additional duties to the minimum. Anne Marie ... WELCOME BACK!

As you will see from the list of Directors on the front page, all other Directors agreed to continue serving GCC for the next year. THANKS to each and every one of you for all the hard work that you do.

In May, Guyana celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Independence. How time flies!!! It was heartening to read and see how the people of Guyana celebrated. I am sure that all Guyanese – wherever they were – took part in some form of celebration.

Some of our members were in Guyana for the occasion and later in this newsletter you will see an article by Karen Heifa, Director of GCC, who we like to consider as our 'unofficial' ambassador to the 50th Celebration. Yes.... GCC was represented!

In closing I would like to ask everyone to pray for the continued success of Guyana Christian Charities for many years to come. Sincerely,

Elizabeth Abdool

President



PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



Year 2016 is fast approaching its end and with that the advent of the coming Festive Season.

The last shipment for this year was a 40 ft. container which included wheelchairs, books, bicycles, clothing, medical supplies and appliances, school supplies, canned food, household supplies, tools and toys.

This year, GCC shipped 3 containers, 1 – 20 ft. and 2 – 40 ft.

A large supply of office furniture and electrical hospital beds were obtained and sent to the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for a Nursing Home for the Elderly Care. Also some electrical tools were bought, and some were acquired through donations; these were sent to the Maintenance Dept. of that hospital.

Through donations and fund raising events, GCC achieved its financial objectives in providing financial assistance to a number of charitable organizations across Guyana.

Our Volunteers continue to work tirelessly to collect, sort and pack donations which provide for the needy and less fortunate folks in Guyana.

Over 90 Organizations across Guyana received donations which they accepted with humility and gratitude. They offered blessings to our members, volunteers, our donors and supporters.

Please continue to support us. We can be reached by calling any of the following members:

 Terry De Freitas
 416-438-5992

 Anne Marie Reigber
 416-755-6958

 Stephen Choo-Wing
 905-420-2789

 Kumar Singh
 416-498-9962

 Elizabeth Abdool
 416-912-6814

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

Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q. What is the Bartica Triangle?

A. The Bartica Triangle is the area of land at the confluence of the Mazaruni, Cuyuni and Essequibo rivers. This area includes the town of Bartica.

Q. What was or who was El Dorado?

- A. When early European explorers were searching for gold in the Americas, they came to believe that in Guiana there was a city which was on an island which was on a lake. In this city everything that could possibly be made of gold was of gold, even the streets and houses. There lived the royal El Dorado, Spanish for The Gilded One, who during a ceremony would have his high priest cover his body in gold dust.
- Q. For what is Mount Ayanganna most remembered by Guyanese?
- A. The new Guyana flag was raised there to greet the first moments of Independence Day May 26, 1966 as part of the official Independence celebrations. A party composed of Guyana Defence Force soldiers and guides, led by Adrian Thompson, ascended the mountain for the flag-raising ceremony. The mountain is on the left bank of the Mazaruni River between the sources of the Ireng and Potaro Rivers. It is 6,700 feet high -- the highest wholly Guyanese mountain. (Mount Roraima is higher -- 9,219 feet from the Guyana side but is shared with Venezuela and Brazil).

Mercy Resident Care Home



The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, in collaboration with the Sisters of Mercy, have identified a dire need for the provision of a resident care home for senior citizens and have embarked on the conversion of an existing Convent building in Pere Street, Kitty, to what will be known as the Mercy Resident Care. It will provide accommodation for thirty two (32) elderly persons and is scheduled to be opened in November of this year.

The Resident Care facility will be designed for persons who can no longer live alone or care for their own personal needs, such as dressing, bathing, personal care, cooking and housekeeping. It is anticipated that the facility will also cater to those who have chronic medical needs requiring daily attention by a registered nurse. It will be a place where the elderly are honored, respected and empowered to make decisions that affect their lives. It is anticipated that activities will be planned for the residents so that their days are filled with purpose and meaning and not loneliness and boredom.

The elderly will enjoy freedom, independence and privacy when they choose it — security, companionship and support when they need it.

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is happy to add this Home to the list of charities that we support.

In our next Newsletter we will publish a list of items that are still needed for this facility. In the meanwhile, if you would like to make a monetary donation we will arrange for it to be assigned to this charity to assist in its ongoing operation.

A tree is known by its fruit; a person by their deeds. A good deed is never lost; they who sow courtesy reap friendship, and they who plant kindness gather love. ...St. Basil





The Golden Jubilee Awards.... Contd. from Page 1

Joan truly enjoyed working to provide for others, especially the less fortunate. Her active community service and commitment to Guyana have inspired other Guyanese-Canadians to do likewise.

Just to note that GCC was created from two groups of Guyanese, to raise funds for 1) the orphanages in Guyana for Christmas in the 60's; and 2) to assist in the replacement of the Organ at the R.C Brickdam Cathedral in the 70's. These two (2) groups eventually merged and in 1987 received Letters Patent and became a Canadian Corporation under the name Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (often referred to as GCC). Subsequently, Registered Charitable Organization status was granted which enables donors to receive tax deductible receipts for donations made to the organization. GCC is administered on a volunteer basis; there are no paid employees. These fundraising events eventually formed the basis of our annual.... "Food and Bake Sale" and "Valentine Dance".

Currently approximately **100 charities** are assisted, a few of which are listed below (in alphabetical order):

Amerindian Hospice Care
Bait-Ur-Rahma
Beacon Foundation Hospice
Buxton/Friendship Golden Age
Charlotte Street Weslyan Church
Dharam Shala
Joshua Children Centre
Missionaries of Charity
Palms, Brickdam

Public Hospitals (throughout the country)
Ruimveldt Children's Aid Centre
Santa Rosa Mission
Saxacally Presbyterian Mission
Seniors Group
St. Ann's Girls Orphanage
St. John Bosco Boys Orphanage
TIP Safe House (Together In Peace) – GWMO
Uncle Eddie's Home

Twice a year – in the Spring and in the Fall, a Newsletter is issued to supporters. Every effort is made to feature some specific event or a report on one of the many charities assisted. These publications also contain up-to-date information on what has been done and when upcoming events are planned.

There are four (4) major fund raising events yearly:

February -- Valentine Dinner/Dance September -- Fall Dance
May -- Spring Dance October -- Food & Bake Sale

In addition to these events, there is an 'In Memoriam'/'Tribute' program, whereby supporters donate to the organization in lieu of flowers for deceased relatives and friends, or in celebration of special events such as milestone birthdays, anniversaries, etc.. Utilizing these funds, along with generous monetary donations as well as donations in kind, GCC sends much needed items to various charities such as: personal wear and clothing, food and home supplies, medical supplies and equipment, personal hygiene items, wheelchairs, walkers, beds, bikes, etc., and assists with funding to some programs to certain organizations. In addition, GGC sends monetary donations for various programs to specific charities in Guyana with the approval of the Canadian Government.

GCC has to date, sent to charities in Guyana in excess of CDN \$1,200,000.00.

Without the committed and dedicated members and volunteers of GCC, along with the ongoing generosity of GCC's supporters, assisting the orphans, the sick, the aged and the needy would not be possible......Thank You.

VISIT TO GUYANA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

OF INDEPENDENCE





Cuyana celebrated its 50th anniversary of Independence on May 26, 2016, and what a marvelous celebration it was. I was honored and excited to be part of this momentous event.

My trip to Guyana was even more special because I was traveling with my family. It was the first time our children were visiting Guyana and more than 20 years since my husband and I had visited our birth land. Our children had heard so many stories of our fun days growing up and were, therefore, equally excited to observe their roots and experience firsthand, what 'real liming' was all about. Needless to say, our trip was very nostalgic.

We were received at the airport (renovated since I last saw it) by happy, smiling greeters, serving local snacks and goodies. What a lovely surprise that was, after a fun-filled, party plane ride on Fly Jamaica airlines. The travelers, or rather, the 'revelers', were in happy 'spirits' and unexpectedly, I even made the front page of one of the newspapers.

We were pleased to see some positive changes in Guyana. The city and surrounding areas were much cleaner and there were upgraded highways and new roads which enhanced travel outside of the city.

Travelling within the city was more congested and rather chaotic at times, which added to the hustle and bustle of a small, vibrant and authentic city, still with its donkey or horse carts in operation. We tried to jump onto the back of one of the carts, just like 'ole' time days but they eluded us.











The flag raising ceremony brought out a spirit of nationalism with flags waving everywhere and voices singing proudly to the national anthem. It was an emotional moment and the crowds were jubilant and well-behaved, as they also were on the day of the parade.

The eco-tours to the majestic Kaieteur Falls, Baganara and Arrowpoint resorts contributed significantly to our vacation. The true beauty of Guyana surely resides in its eco-tourism.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations included many social events over the eleven-day visit and I was especially delighted to attend the President's Gala event.

At the Gala, I had the opportunity to meet the President of Guyana, the Honorable Mr. David Granger. In 30 seconds I was able to introduce

myself as a member of GCC's Board of Directors and apprised him of the work undertaken by GCC in Canada to help the many charitable organizations, the poor and needy in Guyana. He was very grateful and sent his thanks to the Organization.



The trip to Guyana also gave me the chance to do some work on behalf of GCC. To that end, I visited and delivered some much needed items to some of the Homes and Shelters which we support, including:

- Nazareth House for Women
- St. Thomas Moore Homestead for Men
- TIP (Together in Peace) Safehouse
- Ruimveldt Children Care Home.





I also connected with one of GCC's members, Lauren Harry, who is involved with missionary work in Guyana, and with her assistance and networking, I did some outreach work in a few underprivileged areas, such as Durban Back lands and the Street People. They are all very grateful for the supplies and goodies that are sent to them by GCC on a continuous basis.



Being able to incorporate these activities into my visit truly made my trip more complete. This vacation to Guyana was most memorable for me and my family as it exceeded our expectations."

"We are not defined by the things we accumulate, but by the memories we impart."Philip Olivier



Over the past few months we recruited members of a family who have become staunch supporters and admirers of GCC. This family collected and packed items for our charities at their home – with the direction of the Packing Committee. In addition, they joined the crew as we were loading a trailer heading to Guyana. Below is an extract of a note received from this family:

"Hi Elizabeth:

Just a short note to congratulate you and your glorious team of volunteers who tire endlessly, with good humour, great spirit and clearly a devotion to our fellow Guyanese in need.

- Anne Marie is gorgeous and utterly dedicated;
- Andrew. the quiet soft spoken and lovely giant;
- Stephen, who bends but doesn't break, although he had me very worried from time to time, lifting those heavy cartons, climbing up on boxes, and relentlessly moving them out of the truck;
- Kumar, well what can I say but the apocryphal refined gentleman, getting in there to do what's necessary.
- My lovely wife Janet, my good son Adrian and I were proud to be able to
 participate in such a great experience today, knowing the effort was all for
 a great cause, for folks we don't even know or ever will.....but in such
 small acts as today's loading exercise in Mississauga, I found value and
 meaning, good feeling and much love in my heart.

A good place to be anytime, if not every day....."

This type of communication is what keeps us going. **PLEASE** pass the word around about our organization and, if you can, arrange to join our group for one of our hands-on activities as our newly recruited family did — you never know — you might get 'hooked' and become a regular!

Frank, Janet and Adrian – **THANK YOU** for your help and participation and especially for the kind words as quoted above. God bless you all.





or over five decades, Norman Sue Bakery has become a household name to most Guyanese and West Indian immigrants in the Toronto area. What started as a small business in the basement of their home has now grown into a thriving enterprise with its delicacies in most West Indian, Guyanese stores, and No Frills, across the GTA. Products include favorites such as, *plait bread, tennis rolls, Chinese cakes, pineapple tarts, cheese rolls, salara, dhal puri, paratha roti, chowmein, curry, etc.*

The late Normal Sue who started this family business was known for his generosity and support to several charities in their fundraising activities. Guyana Christian Charities Canada Inc. (GCC) is one of the many that benefit from their support. Kumar Singh, Vice President of GCC recalled Norman Sue's comments to him once, that his motto was "you have to give to get". This motto is very much alive today after Norman's passing. His dear wife, Lynette and children continue with this generosity and GCC continues to benefit



In the photo, Lynette displays a plaque presented by the GCC Board of Directors to Norman Sue Bakery in recognition of their continued support. Lynette (centre) is seen with her daughters Natasha (left) and Kim (right).

Gcc Members Receive



Ontario Volunteer Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the following six (6) GCC members who were recognized by the Ontario Government for generously contributing their time as volunteers in Ontario.

25 + years - Francina Stevenson

15 + years – Lauren Harry

Jean Singh

10 + years - Brian Farnum

5 + years – Dexter Gonsalves Karen Heifa

These awards are given to people who volunteer their time to a single organization for several years. Thank you – much appreciated.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards are an important way to recognize volunteers who have provided service over many years, by donating their time to help others.





UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

Come Join us and Enjoy

SATURDAY, February 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

VALENTINE **D**INNER & **D**ANCE

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



at 7:30 p.m.

SPRING DANCE

Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering
(Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.)

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



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

at 7:30 p.m.

FALL DANCE

Pickering Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering

(Between Liverpool & Brock Rds) South of Highway 2





For Tickets:

Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
Mike Gonsalves -- 416- 420-0565
Dexter Gonsalves -- 905-428-3883

Dennis Choy -- 905-839-0434

Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526

or...... any GCC member

or...... email: gcccaninc@gmail.com

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
29, 2017
1:00 p.m. to
4:00 p.m.

Annual Food Fair & Bake Sale



Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering -(Between Liverpool & Brock Rds. - South of Hway 2)
Free Admission

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► Please contact: Pansy Hsan 905-426-6099

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You can also request to receive our newsletter via email instead of through the mail, by advising us through our email address:

gcccaninc@gmail.com or...

by telephone 416-912-6814
Also please notify us of any change of address. Thank You

Sive 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.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

We publish two newsletters each year (February and October)

If you would like to advertise....

Price: \$100/for two issues

Please call: Dexter Gonsalves



Email: dexterg@bellnet.ca





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

Norma Bettencourt

Sean Clarke

Dennis Gaspar

Carmel Gwendolyn Chin-A-Loy

Bertrand Lee

Sally Perreira

Christy Pieroway

Julette Yvonne Serrao

Gertrude 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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