

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

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

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

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## PACKING TEAM

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.'s packing facility has certainly made things easier and more organized for our packing team to be more effective.

Our packing activity must be the most rewarding segment within GCC, as this is the only group that attracts new volunteers continuously. Thanks to Anne Marie Reigber who is behind obtaining new people.

YES -- this activity is work..... but..... YES they have lots of fun as well!

Over the past year we are happy to welcome four (4) new Packing Volunteers:

Roderick and Lorraine Sue-A-Quan;

Daphne Fung; and

Desiree Mazzuca

## Tons of items waiting to be packed



## Some more stalwarts from the Packing Team



Left to Right: Andrew Zitman, Jackie Guy, Caryll Gomes, Anne Marie Reigber, Lorraine Menezes, Desiree Mazzuca and Stephen Choo-Wing

Left to Right: Jeanette Rowan, Roseanne Foster, Desiree Buckley, Sister H

## 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 -- 2013-2014

### OFFICERS

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Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Bruce Williams 416-740-9328	Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883

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**HONORARY DIRECTOR**  
**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

**Desmond De Barros**  
**Joan De Barros** 905-837-0135

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:**

**T**hank you for having this publication in your hands. This is our primary tool to keep in touch with you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each and every one reading this newsletter for your valuable support. We continue to be very busy and at the same time successful in serving our charities in Guyana.

Thank you to Dereck Mahanger who served as a Director over the past year. Unfortunately, he is unable to continue in this role. At our recent Annual General Meeting Stephen Choo-Wing was elected to fill this vacancy. WELCOME STEPHEN.

New Membership remains a very important goal for GCC. Yes...we need new members who will be in a position to take over from the long-term members as they 'slow down'. You will get great satisfaction in knowing that you are helping the orphans, sick, poor and elderly in our dear land of Guyana; and at the same time having fun with some pretty nice people!

We were saddened to lose one of our long-term members Romeo De Freitas. A short obituary can be found later in this newsletter. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Elaine and all the family. May he rest in peace.

Storage space continues to be a problem since donations keep coming in. Accepting donations is necessary since these are the items shipped to our charities ... and they need them! We are asking anyone to let us know if they can assist us in storing any items ... even for a short period. Thank you in advance.

Your ongoing support at our dances and the Food and Bake Sale is sincerely appreciated. These events are always financially successful due to your attendance and participation, as well as the tremendous hard work of our members and volunteers, not forgetting our supporters.

**AN APPEAL ...** Many of our long-time bakers and cooks are no longer with us. What does this mean? Well, unless we get new people to fill the gaps, we will not have enough stuff to sell at our Food and Bake Sale. In other words ... **WE NEED BAKERS AND COOKS.** Can you help? Please contact us.

In closing, I would like to thank you all, most sincerely for your ongoing support and wish you and your families God's blessings.

**Remember: 'The Best is the Least we can do'. THANK YOU.**

Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth Abdool*  
President

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

Mother Teresa

## BE A GCC VOLUNTEER

We invite you to become a GCC Volunteer! Please call Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814 or any other GCC member for more information. There are many opportunities for all age groups, including students. As a Volunteer, you will enjoy the fulfillment of giving to your community, helping a worthy cause and making a difference in the lives of many. It is also a way of making new friends, expanding your network, and boosting your social skills.

## 2013 ONTARIO VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

**S**ix of Guyana Christian Charities members/volunteers received the Ontario Service Awards in 2013. They were: **Romeo De Freitas, Terry De Freitas, Joyce Foster, Mike Gonsalves, John O'Connor and Andrew Zitman.** CONGRATULATIONS!

It is necessary to nominate people for this award in January of each year. Unfortunately Romeo passed away prior to the presentation. His certificate has been given to his wife Elaine.

The Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration welcomed all the recipients and guests and then proceeded to award the pins and shake everyone's hand. The ceremony was followed by delicious munchies.



Pictured above: Minister Coteau, Terry DeFreitas and John O'Connor

## 'OUTSIDE THE BOX'



Shareen and Boogie Lee held a dance over the Christmas holidays and offered GCC part of the proceeds. We were asked permission to state on their tickets that part of the proceeds will be donated to GCC. This permission was granted. We received \$200 from this project. Special thanks were extended to Shareen and Boogie Lee.

## How to Receive GCC'S Newsletters

If you are not already on our mailing list you may either view and/or print our newsletter from our website <http://www.gcccanada.org> or request to be put on our email list via our email address "[info@gcccanada.org](mailto:info@gcccanada.org)". If you do not have a computer, you may call 416-912-6814 and ask to be added to our mailing list.

## PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



From January to December 2012 we sent three (3) shipments to our charities in Guyana. It is planned that for the 2013 Calendar year we will send 2 shipments.

On April 24, 2013, GCC loaded and shipped a 40-ft container to Guyana. The vessel arrived in Guyana on May 8, 2013. Customs clearance of this container has been obtained and distribution of the donations has commenced.

Donations consisted of Medical Supplies, Medical Equipment, clothing, shoes, kitchen utensils, beddings, bed-toppers, bicycles, wheel chairs, foodstuff and miscellaneous items. In addition, a number of much needed items were requested by organizations and individuals; since such items were not received as donations, GCC purchased the items and included them in this shipment.

Organizations and individuals assisted by GCC are not only in Georgetown, but exist countrywide, e.g. Guyana Presbyterian Church in Ogle, Mahaica Home for Children, Missionary of Charity New Amsterdam, Paradise Community Outreach, Parika Neighbourhood Foundation, Prabusharan Orphanage in Leonora, St. Anthony's Church in Bartica, Saxacally Mission in Pomerom, St. Cuthbert's Mission in Mahaica Creek, St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Essequibo, High Schools in Berbice and Leonora, etc., etc.

In addition, a number of organizations and individuals, e.g. Ambassador of Christ Ministries, Bait-Ur-Rahma, Charlotte St. Wesleyan Church, Ameridian Hospice Care, Wendy Grenada, and Arnold Gulab received donations for distributions across Guyana including the hinterlands.

Thanks to all our donors, supporters and volunteers for their contributions in the past and GCC looks forward to their continued support. Your assistance and generous donations continue to bring happiness to the less fortunate people in Guyana.

Children's clothing, toys, and games are much in demand. Please call to arrange for pickups. We can be reached by calling any of the following persons:

<b>Terry De Freitas</b>	<b>416-438-5992</b>
<b>Anne Marie Reigber</b>	<b>416-755-6958</b>
<b>Stephen Choo-Wing</b>	<b>905-420-2789</b>
<b>Desmond de Barros</b>	<b>905-837-0135</b>
<b>Kumar Singh</b>	<b>416-498-9962</b>
<b>Elizabeth Abdool</b>	<b>416-912-6814</b>

Regarding our operation, once items reach Guyana, Billy Fernandes, our #1 person in Guyana for several years, is no longer able to handle our shipments. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Billy for his several years of service, and to the Fernandes Family, who have arranged for Mark Fernandes to take over Billy's GCC duties. Mark will now handle our shipments.

As reported last year, Billy's wife Sandra Fernandes offered to take on the responsibility of calling package recipients as her donation to GCC until other arrangements were made. On the recommendation of Billy Fernandes, one of John Fernandes Limited Terminal staff – Mr. Gobin has agreed to advise package recipients when their packages arrive. He has been doing a fantastic job in getting signatures from every individual who collects their packages. Obtaining signatures had been a problem for quite some time now and we are extremely happy with Mr. Gobin's success in this regard.

## WITH SYMPATHY

Eternal Rest Grant onto them O Lord

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

**Romeo De Freitas**  
**Mavis Mendes de Franca**  
**Sister Angela Fernandes, O.S.U**  
**Cecelia Fung-A-Ling**  
**Charles Serrao**  
**Marjorie De Souza**  
**Clement Eugene De Abreu**  
**Hermana Rodrigues**  
**Jean Choo-Wing**  
**Anita D'Oliveira**

Sincere thanks to those who listed Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and/or the Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund to receive donations in lieu of flowers.



## TRIBUTES



GCC is saddened at the passing of **Romeo De Freitas**, who has been a devoted and stalwart member/supporter and past Director (1992-1993) of our organization. Romeo was involved with GCC shortly after his arrival in Canada in 1976. Romeo was a very active and reliable member, especially with the Valentine Dance, the Bake Sale and various events over the years until his sudden death at his home, on Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Romeo lived his life most honestly and humbly. He will always be remembered for his kindness, humour, integrity, and for his devotion and passion to his family -- his wife Elaine to whom he was married to for 55 years; his children Trevor (Janice), Michelle (Dave) and Dale (Fran); and grandchildren, Luke, Zachary, Drew, Sydney and Jaime.

After a successful career with Allstate Canada, he spent his retirement having fun and assisting numerous organizations, including the Guyana Burn Care Unit with their annual event.

To his wife Elaine, children and grandchildren, we offer our prayers and sincere sympathy, as we share their loss.

### Mavis Mendes de Franca

GCC has lost a wonderful and kind volunteer and supporter with the death of Mavis. For many years, she made pastries for the Bake Sale and the Valentine Dance, and was especially known for her delicious cassava pone. She always assisted in various GCC's projects; as well she contributed toys, shoes, clothing and baby furniture to the needy. She was one of our faithful workers at the cake stall, and we will all miss her smiling face at the Cake Stall.

We are indeed grateful for having been blessed with her help, devotion and presence for so many years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time of sorrow.

## FEATURE CHARITY -- GUYANA OUTREACH

One of our members, Sister H has been reaching out to the depressed communities in Guyana with the assistance of GCC – a continuous worthy cause which assists the poor and the needy.

Pictures speak louder than words



Houses in Canal area



A woman accepting a Walker for her disabled daughter



A woman receiving bicycle for her husband. Her house (shack) was burnt to the ground -- they had nothing. We were able to assist with clothing, toys for the children and of course the cycle which will help the husband to get to work

Volunteers and supporters help us to deliver much needed services to the needy in Guyana. Without you – our supporters/volunteers and members, we would not be able to provide assistance to as many people. By volunteering it makes a difference, either as a regular volunteer or as a volunteer on a special project, you too can make a difference! This is a chance to give something back to the community, use your skills and experience in ways that make a change in the lives of people who need their help. For others, it is a chance to meet new friends and be supportive -- it is a rich and rewarding experience.

### ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED



Children's clothing  
(Boys/girls/babies)



Toys and Games



Linens:  
(Sheets/pillowcases/towels)

## ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL

At the request of the Chairman of the Board of the hospital, we started a fund In July 2010 to assist the hospital after the disastrous fire on May 10th, 2010.

To date, thanks to your generosity, we have received monetary donations totaling \$76,438.00, for which Tax Receipts have been issued. These funds have been used to purchase the following supplies/equipment for the hospital:

1. Laparoscopic and Arthroscopic Equipment	\$20,050.00
2. Infant Pediatric Ventilator	7,118.00
3. Adult Ventilator	9,653.00
4. Bed Linen etc.	6,654.00
5. Ocean Freight on 3-40ft Containers	11,793.00
6. Ventilator for ICU/HDU	15,087.00

Item #5 above covers the cost of shipping 3 containers which were filled with office furniture, surgical gowns, resuscitators, etc. which were all donated to us. These items have been conservatively valued at \$80,000.00.

The reconstruction of the hospital is being carried out in two phases. Phase 1 which is expected to be completed by July 2 at a cost of approximately U.S. \$2.5 million.

**Phase 1:** This encompassed the refurbishing and extending of the section of the hospital which was not damaged and the up-grading of equipment etc. to improve the quality of service.

**Phase 2:** This will involve the construction of new buildings i.e. Chapel, Conference/Meeting Room, Administrative Offices, etc., is in the planning stage.

It is evident that they will need more funds to finance Phase 2 and your continued support by way of monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. All donations made through Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. will receive a Tax Receipt.

*Thank You*

Congratulations! You are doing a very good job for humanity. You are touching the hearts of the needy with those helpful gifts of love. When you give food, clothes and money to various institutions in Guyana. **Joshua House Children Centre in Guyana** is one of the receivers of those helpful gifts in boxes. Thank you, thank you from our children and staff. God increase your blessings in your organization. **Clifford & Gladys Accra, Supervisors /Administrators, Joshua House Children Centre**

"Again...thank you for your continuing generous support for the patients at Mahaica Hospital. May I assure you of their prayers and ours that God will bless each of you for all your kindness to help so many, many of our people. ...**Sister Noel**

**Santa in Silver Hill:**

Thank you for all the toys and clothing which you sent. On December 18<sup>th</sup> toys were distributed to the children in Silver Hills, a very small Amerindian community of perhaps 300 people.

They were not the only ones to receive gifts, toys and clothing were given to 130 children in all, including some in Linden and in Georgetown.

Sincere thanks for all your help. ....**Wendy Grenada**



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

### Come Join us and Enjoy

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER  
07, 2013**  
at 7:30 p.m.

**FALL DANCE**  
WEST ROGUE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
270 Rouge Hills Drive M1C 2Z1  
(Lawrence & Port Union)  
**Music: Band:** Triple Play  
**D.J.:** Bakes

**Tickets can be obtained for the dance from:**



**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: info@gcccanada.org

**SUNDAY  
October,  
27, 2013**  
**1:00 P.M. TO  
4:00 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**  
New Donors: Please call **Rahana Khan** – 905-282-3110

**LOOK  
OUT FOR OUR**

**...Valentine Dance  
February 2014**



## CALL US TO ADVERTISE

**We publish two newsletters each year  
(June and October)**  
**If you would like to advertise....**  
**Please call**  
**Bruce Williams**  
**416-740-9328**



**Email:** bruce\_williams@winners.ca



## Give a Helping Hand

☒ **YES! I WANT TO HELP**

☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

☐ General ☐ Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund

☐ In Memory/Honour ☐ St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Fund

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.**  
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 List/  
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

## WILL 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** ☐ **Dance** ☐ **Packing for shipments**
  - ☐ **Transporting donated items**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.**  
805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6

**Thank you for your generosity and support**



## 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 highest levels of 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. Guyana has one of the largest unspoiled rainforests in South America, some parts of which are almost inaccessible by humans.



Jeff Kioussis

3474 Kingston Road  
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## Photographs for Guyana

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/revjoc>

As a GCC member and volunteer at Mercy Hospital, I want to use my photography to support Guyana projects.

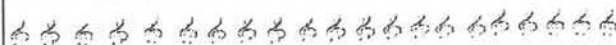
Portfolio includes Guyana, Nova Scotia & Australia.

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**ALL proceeds used for Guyana projects.**

For further assistance: revsx2@hotmail.com



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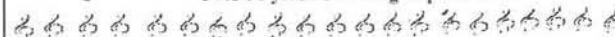
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100 Westmore Drive, Unit #29, Rexdale, Ontario M9V 5C3