

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

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

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WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message
Celebrate Kindness during
Valentine
St Joseph Mercy Hospital
Recovery Project
Packing & Shipping Update
Be a Volunteer
How to receive Newsletter
Sacred Heart Church
Could you give us Bikes?
Items Needed
T'itbits
With Sympathy
Thank You's
Tribute to Norman Sue
Upcoming Events
Guyana -- You Thought You
Knew

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*

Ten Years with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Student Nurses

By John O'Connor

This was the semester of "Volunteers", namely colleagues and friends Beverley Clarke, a McMaster University neurology researcher and Dennis LeBlanc, a pastoral counselor from Massachusetts. They both enriched my "PBL Psychology, Neurology, Ethics and Sociology Course" for three weeks each with 17 students



Local faculty, Elsie Asabere, and three of my former students (now graduates from UG), Azalia Luke, Roberta Binda, and Tiffany Chichester-Gilkes, participated as student tutors. Volunteer Marylou Welch, a faculty member from University of St. Joseph's, Connecticut, secured graduate credits for their work. Then -- came the Canadian mental health team from Grand River Hospital, Kitchener -- Peter Kuhnert, a doctor/pastor; Sujay Patel, a psychiatrist; Brenna Christian, an educator; and, Ram Kalap, a chaplain from Homewood Hospital. Under the guidance of Dr. Bhiri Harry, chief psychiatrist in Guyana, they explored many prospects for future involvement of the team. And I am a volunteer too....as well as a member of GCC.

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Desmond De Barros Joan De Barros	905-837-0135
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Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

Welcome to 2014! Most of us keep saying: "Where has the year gone?" Well, very often we get the answer: "Time flies when you are having fun!" I hope that is the case for each and every one of you. It is not often easy but, we must continue to be positive, happy and kind. It is also said that helping others almost always brings a smile to the receiver as well as the giver so ... keep smiling!!!

Weather-wise, 2013 has been quite an eventful year worldwide. The many floods, tornados and storms hit several countries over the past year. In addition to our ongoing assistance to the many charities in Guyana, Guyana Christian Charities gave assistance to the Philippines during their tremendous hardship.

During 2013 we needed to arrange three (3) shipments to Guyana. Thanks for the generous donations received, this action was possible — in fact it was necessary! We had no choice but to send 3 shipments since our storage facilities were to the brim and overflowing. Receiving items is necessary ... having enough people to sort, store and pack these items is also necessary, and, last but not least ... funds to send these shipments is necessary!!! So, as you can see, there are several areas necessary to come together to enable us to support our fellow Guyanese back home.

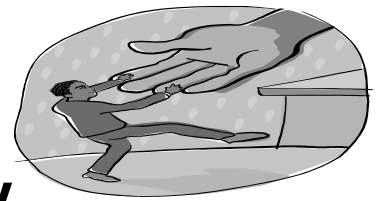
Our mission remains the same: ***"Dedicated to providing aid and assistance to Guyanese organizations, individuals and others in need"***. We are very happy to be able to meet some of the needs to help others -- only because of the continued support of so many people, as well as the ongoing service of our members and volunteers who give their all ... above and beyond ... and in the true volunteer spirit -- free of charge! The willingness and energy of all these people continue to amaze me! We at Guyana Christian Charities are truly blessed with a hard-core group of fantastic people. ***Thank you everybody!*** I would also like to take this opportunity of extending our sincere appreciation to Romona Khan for assisting us with our Website as our Webmaster. Romona, it is even more special since you are in Guyana. Thanks a million!

We now look ahead to 2014. In addition to our members and volunteers, our supporters go hand-in-hand with making our efforts possible. Each and every fund-raising event is always successful, only because of the ongoing support we receive. Please accept a special 'vote of thanks' for your genuine caring and compassionate acts towards the underprivileged in our troubled country. The ever growing need of assistance drives us to dig deeper in order to try and provide some form of relief, and restore faith to these unfortunate persons, especially the orphaned, the elderly, the sick and the needy.

We look forward to your continued support and generosity in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Abdool
President

Celebrate Kindness ...during Valentine



"Valentine's Day can be much more than flowers, chocolate and candy, or even being part of a couple. It is good that there is a day in our busy lives when we officially celebrate love -- not just only romantic love..... Behind our roles and personalities and professionalism, each of us, at essence, is a living, loving being.....And on this one day attributed to a Saint, the world agrees: **"Love is from the heart"**.

So on Valentine's Day, along with the cupids, carnations, etc.....Give of yourself.....your time, your heart....to people you know, and people you don't know.....Share your love in small ways... And best of all, be generous.....not necessarily monetary.....it could be your time"

There are many ways to do good and feel good for Valentine. Here are a few

- Will You Be a...Volunteer?
-Put the "Fun" in Fundraising or Donating
-Reach Out to Those in Need
-Celebrate with Small Acts of Kindness, etc.

But don't stop at the end of the week, create a new habit where you will do at least one random act of kindness every now and again.

Make someone else's day happier and you will make your own day happier. Any gift of love will unquestionably change lives. Celebrate love and life!

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Recovery Project



We are pleased to report that Phase One of the Recovery Project has been completed and the Official Reopening and Rededication of the renovated North Wing was held on July 2, 2013 with Bishop Alleyne officiating.

Guyana Christian Charities, in collaboration with a committee styled St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Recovery Committee here in Toronto have together contributed approximately Cdn.\$200,000.00, the equivalent of \$40 million Guyana Dollars, in donations, fund raising events and "in kind" donations of hospital supplies/equipment etc. over the past 3 years.

Phase Two of the restoration project is in the planning stage. In the interim, the Committee in Georgetown is shifting its focus to improving the Medical and Nursing care at the hospital. A primary thrust will be the improvement of their Elderly Care program where seniors can enjoy freedom, independence and privacy when they choose it, and security, companionship and support when they need it.

We have been requested to continue our assistance and we take this opportunity to thank all those who have made donations and those who have supported the various fundraising activities.

Your continued support will be very much appreciated.

PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



On September 26, 2013, the final shipment for the year left for Guyana. This was a 40-ft. container with 930 pieces/boxes of donations that were consigned to 50 different charities across the country, including hospitals.

The container was laden with clothing and shoes for men, women and children; also school supplies and equipment, printers, books, backpacks, etc.; bed linens, towels, sheets, tablecloths, strollers, baby feeding chairs, medical supplies/equipment, depends, bath chairs and toilet seats, wheelchairs, walkers, bicycles, sewing machines and materials, suitcases, mattresses, kitchen utensils, DVD & CD players, canned foodstuff and cookies, toothpaste and soap, Christmas cards, trees and decorations, toys, tables and chairs, etc. This shipment arrived in Guyana on October 11, 2013, in time for distribution for the Christmas Season.

GCC takes this opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters for their generous contribution. Special thanks to our donor from Montreal who continues to give generously, and to the Scarboro Missions for the 9 boxes of very useful items for distribution and the kind words of appreciation to GCC for its assistance to Guyanese. From the communication received from the various charities and individuals in Guyana, GCC would like to convey best wishes and blessings expressed by these people.

Thank you all for your generosity and please continue to make your contributions to help the less fortunate. We can be reached by calling any of the following:

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

BE A GCC VOLUNTEER

We invite you to become a GCC Volunteer! Please call Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814 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.

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". If you do not have a computer, you may call 416-912-6814 and ask to be added to our mailing list.

SACRED HEART CHURCH



The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery on Main Street, Georgetown, currently being rebuilt after being demolished by a fire that struck on Christmas Morning 2004, is expected to be completed and occupied shortly.

The Chairperson of the Sacred Heart Church Rebuilding Committee told the Guyana Chronicle in a telephone interview in December that the church is 80% complete, and all of the funding has been secured for its completion. However, funding for the furnishing of the church has not yet been secured and G\$25M is needed in this regard.

Funding was secured from corporate businesses in Guyana, as well as donations from former Sacred Heart parishioners, particularly those that reside in Toronto, Canada. Donations are still being received from persons residing both overseas and locally, as the rebuilding process progresses.

The newly constructed concrete building replaces the historical wooden church, which was completely destroyed as a result of an electrical fire nine years ago on Christmas morning 2004. Sixty five parishioners were in the building when the fire began. All managed to escape unhurt. The adjoining Sacred Heart Primary School was also destroyed in the fire.

Persons wishing to make donations towards the completion of the church's reconstruction can do so at the following banks: Republic Bank Guyana: 268-496-7; Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry: CIDA 802530; New Building Society: 134769; Scotiabank Guyana: 10006626

COULD YOU GIVE US BIKES ?



You probably have an old bike in the basement/garage or a few bikes your kids have outgrown or they might need parts, etc. Put them to good use!.....We accept bicycles of all sizes and types -- from tricycles up to full sized bicycles for adults. Flat tires and broken or missing parts are no problem -- we will refurbish and recycle. These will then be distributed free throughout Guyana to individuals or local charities that serve both children and adults. We wish every donor could see the contagious joy and huge smile of the person who receives one of these bikes.

ITEMS NEEDED: Wish List

- ✦ Linens -- sheets/pillowcases/towels
 - ✦ Children's clothing--babies/boys/girls
 - ✦ Shoes, especially children's shoes and school supplies
- Please ... NO WARM CLOTHING nor Computers**



"For it is in giving that we receive." — *St. Francis of Assisi*



Tidbits

Facebook -- Please check out GCC's Facebook and give your comments, stories, etc....**Thanks!**

Mailing Address -- Kindly send mail to GCC to the address at the top of the newsletter -- Thank you.

Autumn Dance 2013 -- This dance realized a profit of \$4,580.95. Part of proceeds from this Dance went to assist with the earthquake in the Philippines among other humanitarian efforts.

Bake Sale 2013 -- This year the Bake Sale realized a profit of almost \$15,000. Thanks to all the many supporters, volunteers and members of GCC. Most of the proceeds will assist with shipping and various expenses.

Some Fun Time!! Summer in the Park and Christmas with Santa -- The Summer and Christmas 'Pot-luck' events turned out to be 'good-luck' where goodies were concerned. GCC has lots of good cooks and bakers but hey -- those who can't do either proved to be good shoppers!



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:

Clement Babb
Michael E. G. da Silva
Bernard Anthony Lopes De Graca
Gail Ferreira Ng-A-Kein
Dolores Olivia Serrao
Norman Sue

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

Mission 2013 Guyana Tiger Bay



This is one of our most needy communities in Guyana that Sister H (one of our members) assists. She has sent thanks to Guyana Christian Charities and to all other donors who have once again helped to make a difference in this community.

During Sr. H's visits to Guyana, she arranges the distribution of items to several Charities and needy areas over the Christmas Season. GCC received a beautiful Thank You note from Sr. H. re our assistance with her various projects.

"To Guyana Christian Charities, I bring you greetings from the communities we serve in Guyana. Without your ongoing support my trips to Guyana would not be possible"

Thank You's were received from:

Island Outreach LA Penitence	Tiger Bay	Bayroot
Holy Redeemer	Mocha	Kitty
Buxton Beacon Community	Canal #1	Alboustown
Paradise Community Outreach	Plastic City	Nursing Homes
Ruimveldt Children's Home	Lodge	Georgetown Prisons
Heavenly Light		

and

Saxacalli (which includes Three Mile High School where some of the children from Sax as well as Ameridian children from other communities board and attend.)

In addition, Christmas Dinners were served to over 200 people.

Wendy Grenada, a GCC member resident in Guyana assisted Sr. H. by supplying some toys and by playing 'Santa' in the Bayroot area. "

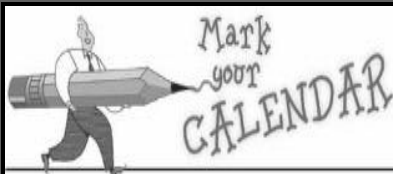
- Sister Christa, Missionaries of Charity (New Amsterdam):** Thank you for all the items you sent for us ... we are grateful for all that you do for us in helping the poor in New Amsterdam. May God bless you always. Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year.
- Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues, St. Anthony's RC Church, Bartica:** Christmas was hectic as usual, but constructive. We held a Festival of 9 Lessons with Carols on 23rd December in front of the market here in Bartica at 5:00PM; seven churches participated: Anglican. Presbyterian, Nazarene, Baptist, Salvation Army, Westlyan and Catholic. It went down well and drew a large crowd, which was heading home after a day of shopping! Unfortunately we tried hard to celebrate Mass on Christmas Eve, but the electric company did not connect up the metre and still has not done it. However I heard that it can only be done by someone from Georgetown.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN SUE DECEASED

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is saddened by the death of Norman Sue, who passed away on Oct. 7, 2013.

Norman Sue was instrumental in bringing the taste of Guyana to Toronto through his bakery with many delicacies of items such as salara, mithai, beef patties, cheese rolls, pine tarts, plait bread, etc. Norman was a very kind and generous individual, who was deeply involved in activities of the Fundraising Guyanese community. GCC is forever grateful to Norman Sue and his family for being so generous to our organization. He was always good to us in so many ways and assisted us to achieve success with many fundraising events. "His name will remain a household name in our community". To his wife Lynette, children and grandchildren, we offer our prayers and sincere sympathy as we share in their loss.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness -- Galatians 5:22



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

Come Join us and Enjoy

SATURDAY,
MAY 17,
2014
at 7:30 p.m.

SPRING DANCE
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)
Music: Band: Fuh Fun
DJ.: Boogie

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20,
2014
at 7:30 p.m.

Fall DANCE
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)
Music: Band: } T.B.A
DJ.: }

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



OCTOBER 26, 2014
ANNUAL FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE
Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall
1490 Markham Road
(North of 401 - Entrance on Milner Avenue)
Free Admission



Guyana's History
You thought you knew

Q: Who was the first black woman to sit in Britain's cabinet.

A: Baroness Valerie Ann Amos. Born in Guyana in March 1954, she moved to England when she was nine years old. She studied at the Universities of Warwick, Birmingham and East Anglia. She was awarded an Honorary Professorship at Thames Valley University in 1995 in recognition of her work on equality and social justice. She began her career in local government, working in various London boroughs from 1981 to 1989. Valerie Amos became a life peer in 1997, taking the title Baroness Amos, of Brondesbury in the London Borough of Brent. Baroness Amos became the first black woman to sit in Britain's cabinet following Prime Minister Tony Blair's decision to appoint her International Development Secretary. Up till then, she had been Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She was made Leader of the House of Lords on October 6, 2003, following the death of Lord Williams of Mostyn. The Leader of the House of Lords takes charge of the government's business in the House, and has some responsibility for determining the order of speakers.

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.

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

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 ☐ Dance ☐ Packing for shipments
☐ Transporting donated items

Name _____

CALL US TO ADVERTISE

We publish two newsletters each year
(February and October)

If you would like to advertise....

Price: \$100/for two issues

Please call: Dexter Gonsalves
416-912-6814

Email: dexterg@bellnet.ca





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B: 416-284-5655

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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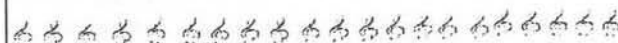
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- A. Rupert De Castro

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