

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

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

Website: <http://www.gcccanada.org> Email: gcccaninc@gmail.com

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001



VOLUME 50

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The Joy of Giving

The Joy of Giving: "Giving is one of the best investments you can make towards achieving genuine happiness. True giving comes from the heart, with no expectation of reciprocation".

Each year during the Christmas season, GCC makes a special effort to bring "cheer", to some underprivileged, handicapped and the poor (children and adults), in various sectors of Guyana. This is done through one of its devoted members, Sister H and her team.



Below highlights a very special 8-year old child, Ken, who cannot speak or walk. He lives on the East coast with his grandparents and father. Ken's mom a young woman, passed away last year, one week before Sister H met his family. Look at the excitement on Ken's face as he receives his gifts from GCC -- his toys, bath chair, clothing, etc.



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*

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." Our lives are richer when we share, and that great inner joy comes from helping others to better their lives.

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HONORARY DIRECTOR DESMOND DE BARROS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our readers!

2016 has started off on a very positive footing. With the continued success of our Fund Raising Events ... the Food & Bake Sale ... the Valentine Dance ... and our Spring and Fall Dances ... and through the goodness of your hearts – and in conjunction with the Charities we help in Guyana, we feed the hungry, heal the sick, care for orphans and shelter the homeless!

This is a GOOD feeling! Please share this feeling with us as it is because of every little bit done by so many people that these goals are achieved.

Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you who attended the Food & Bake Sale held in October at the new location – the Pickering Recreation Complex. This location change was necessary in order to maintain reasonably less expenses, thus increasing the proceeds much needed to reach our aims and objectives. The very positive feedback regarding this move relieved our initial apprehension and made us more confident in our decision. Yes...your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Thank you. A little more on this event appears later in this issue.

We have been involved in quite a few special projects. As you go through this Newsletter you will see updates on a variety of projects we are currently working with such as:

- The Tools Project for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital;
- The Guyana Women Miners Organization;
- A special donation to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital of a variety of items resulting in a separate shipment to them.

We continue to the best of our ability to do all that we can to achieve our Mission ... all due to your kind and continued support.

May God bless each and every one of you and your families throughout 2016.

Sincerely,

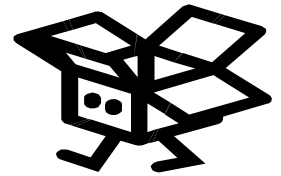
Elizabeth Abdool

President



Together we make a difference

PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



Guyana Christian Charities' shipment for Christmas arrived in Guyana in time for the festive season and donations were delivered to the consignees in good time to make a huge difference to a large number of people. Lauren Harry (Sister H), Wendy Grenada and many other volunteers in Guyana did an excellent job delivering much needed items to the less fortunate in time to put a smile on so many faces.

Our volunteers and members continue to collect, sort and pack donations received from our supporters, preparing for our next shipment. In the meantime, GCC received a large number of excellent office furniture from a very generous donor. This donation included metal filing cabinets, desks, training equipment and supplies. GCC also received a number of electric hospital beds with mattresses and spare parts. These items were enough to fill a 20 ft. container. The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital has plans to build a Nursing Home in Guyana and these items were shipped to this Hospital to assist in the project and will arrive in Guyana on February 5, 2016.

The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is also asking for assistance in procuring some electrical tools for its maintenance department. GCC will collect any such usable tools and will ship them to the Hospital. Please contact any one of our members listed below to arrange the collection of such tools. A list of the required tools along with some further details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

This is GCC's first newsletter for the New Year – 2016. A special Thank You to all our supporters, donors and volunteers for your continued support.

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
Dexter Gonsalves	- 416-293-8622
Kumar Singh	- 416-498-9962
Elizabeth Abdool	- 416-912-6814



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Fran Stevenson

Looking back on the many years I have been involved with Guyana Christian Charities and its various ventures, I have to say that heading up the Sweet Tooth stall at the annual Bake Sale has given me the most pleasure and provided me with some of the family time I've experienced.

As you may be aware, my wonderful daughters all kick in to help me pull off a successful event, some of them turning out the delicious fudge which is the mainstay of the stall while others, who can't seem to get the hang of that aspect, give me their help in other ways.

When I started upon this journey, our location was in the church hall of the Holy Spirit church and we would be setting up the stall while Mass was still going on in the church above us. We had to be very quiet so as not to create a disturbance, and it was amazing to see all the helpers doing their thing with as little noise as possible and somehow managing to do it well.

Over a period of time, we changed locations now and then, but this past year, when our venue was announced, I was thrilled to find out that the new premises would be the Pickering Recreation Complex, which happens to be right across the road from where I live. For some reason, this seemed to give me an edge on getting all the stuff which has to be taken to the location. The car still had to be loaded and unloaded, the same things had to be carted over, but it did appear to be less stressful and easier to handle. As well, since I am now a much older person than when I started doing this, at the back of my mind I have the comforting feeling that if it gets to be too much for me to go the distance on the day of the Sale, my home is right across and easily accessible.

I hope I can continue to contribute in a meaningful way to this annual event for as long as possible and thank all those who help me in this worthwhile venture. I love you and God bless you all.

Storage



In almost every issue of our newsletter we keep asking: **'Does anyone have some space – maybe a garage that they can offer us to store items?'** Well, Ryhad Hamid heard of our great need and came to our rescue over ten (10) years ago. Yes, it is now over 10 year since we felt that we had landed on a **'gold mine'** when we were offered the use of a garage on O'Connor Drive to store some of our items. This donation of space has become known as **'Our O'Connor Location'!!!**

Without the use of this garage our Packing & Shipping operation would never be able to cope with the items we prepare for shipment to our many charities in Guyana. Mr. Hamid, on behalf of the Directors and Members of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and all the charities we assist in Guyana, – **THANK YOU** and **GOD BLESS YOU**.

It would be wonderful if someone else who reads this article gives the request a second thought and says: **'Hey...would you like to use my garage as storage?'** Are you that someone?

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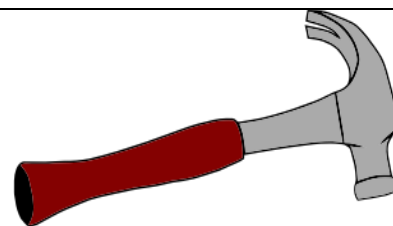
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"Life is like a steering wheel, it only takes one small move to change your entire direction."
— Kellie Elmore

Do you have a Garage, Shed or Basement Full of Great Tools



If you are not using them now and want to send them to a good home,

St Joseph Mercy Hospital, Maintenance Department, Georgetown, Guyana, can use them.

John O'Connor, a member of Guyana Christian Charities, has been a volunteer visitor at Mercy for the last fourteen (14) years. During those trips he has had to ask the guys from the Maintenance Department to fix, repair, replace, patch-up, get a depressive refrigerator working again, a waterless shower, doors that don't lock, screens with holes ... and when they do come they only have the most rudimentary set of hand tools. These are the same tools that they use to keep the hospital working – from the Operating Room, Laundry, X-Ray Department, the water and electric supply for the whole hospital.

Below is a partial list of desired tools from Mr. Keith John, Manager of the department:
[All power tools should be for heavy duty use and 120 Volts, 60Hz]

- Hammer Drill
- Multi-Meter Digital with Ampere Probe
- Wet and Dry Vacuum
- Angle Grinder
- Jig Saw [both hand and table]
- Heat Gun
- Electric Plane
- Reciprocating Saw
- 24+ Spanner/Wrench Set
- Compressor – 120 Gallon, 230 V, 60HZ, 38 Amps

Guyana Christian Charities will arrange to collect and ship the tools in the next container shipment, planned for late winter or early spring. If you have tools that you think might be a great donation, please contact any member of Guyana Christian Charities to arrange a drop-off time and place....or call 416-498-9962. As well we want to make sure that we don't have too many of the same tool.

Visit us on Facebook

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

You can like what you see, share comments or just look at the various comments/articles/etc.



GCC's website
<http://www.gcccanada.org>



Please visit our website which has recently been upgraded. **Sincere thanks to our webmasters, Romona Sivanand (Guyana) and Charles Dow (Canada).** They have generously donated their time and effort to assisting GCC on an ongoing basis, and when necessary.

As some of you may know, GCC has an email gcccaninc@gmail.com. If you have any comments or suggestions for improving the endeavors of GCC, please send us an email. Your suggestions would certainly be taken into consideration. Thank You.

For it is in giving that we receive.

Francis of Assisi



Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q: When did Guyana became a Cooperative Republic?

A: On 23 February 1970, Guyana was declared a "Cooperative Republic" within the Commonwealth of Nations. The Commonwealth of Nations, commonly known as the Commonwealth (formerly the British Commonwealth), is an intergovernmental organization of 53 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire.

Q: What is "Mashramani"?

A: Mashramani, often abbreviated to "Mash", is an annual festival that celebrates Guyana becoming a Republic in 1970. The festival, (usually held on 23 February) includes a parade, music, games, cooking, spectacular costume competitions float parades, masquerade bands, and dancing in the streets to the accompaniment of steel band music and calypsos. It is one of the most colorful festivals of the country.

Q: Why is the festival calls Mashramini?

A: "Mashramani" is derived from an Amerindian language and in translation means "the celebration after hard work".



On behalf of the citizens in the **Most Needy Communities In Guyana** and our **Outreach Team**, I would like to thank GCC for its ongoing support.

Because of you, we are able to make a difference in Guyana.

- Wheel chairs, walkers, food, clothing, household items etc., etc., without you, distribution of these items could not be possible. We have been able to distribute wheel chairs to street residents, walkers to seniors, crutches to young and old, clothing to communities where young children go almost naked.
- Meals -- With your help (food) and financial donations from kind friends, we are able to prepare meals for the homeless. This trip, two meals were prepared and served. **The last meal was prepared and served to 209 persons. Sad to say that was not enough.**

We had a program one evening in Canal #1, wow, some clothing I thought was a bit too heavy, my volunteers sent them to that community. As I arrived, the children came running.....Sister H, Sister H, look, look, they were dressed in track suits and sweaters. lol. And I could go on and on.

Thank you from these communities:

CWC*	Saxacalli	Pastor Gerry Outreach	PCOR	BBC	IOLP	Ruimveldt Children Home	Heavenly Light	Pastor Coxall
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Please note: CWC* covers:- Tiger Bay, Zeelought, Bryer Nursing Home, Street ministry, Albouystown, Kitty, Lodge, etc.,

As we continue to serve these communities, our needs are growing. These are some of what we are looking for:

- **children and adults clothing; food; personal hygiene necessities; toys; wheelchairs; crutches; walkers; bikes; pots; etc., etc.,**

Once again thank you. May God continue to bless you richly. Peace & love.

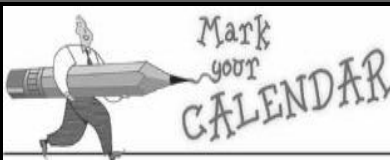
Sister H.

Greetings to you all. I do wish you all a blessed and prosperous 2016. I do pray that you had an enjoyable holiday season. We certainly did here in Guyana.

I am writing to say how thankful we are for your assistance over the years. Your contribution of items and resources has enabled us to be of greater benefit to the children of our Daycare and other unfortunate ones. Without you, our ability would have been significantly less to provide the quality of service we do currently. Thank you very much.

We have been receiving all of the boxes sent to us. We would appreciate if we can get more items for adults as well. It would be greatly appreciated if we can get musical instruments and an amplifier for the youths to learn to play music. Once again thanks to all of your donors and volunteers who do make this happen over the years. May our Lord Jesus continue to bless you with health, strength and financial favour.

Pastor Terry Thomas.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

Come Join us and Enjoy

SATURDAY,
MAY 21, 2016
at 7:30 p.m.

Spring DANCE
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)
Music: Band: *Fuh Fun*
D.J.: *Tee Cee*

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17,
2016
at 7:30 p.m.

Fall DANCE
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)
Music: Band: *Triple Play*
D.J.: *Boogie*



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
30, 2016
1:00 P.M. TO
4:00 P.M.

ANNUAL FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE



Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)

Free Admission

Please call **Rahana Khan** - 416-540-5255

NEW DONORS

GCC'S Newsletters

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 through our email address:

gcccaninc@gmail.com or...by telephone 416-912-6814

Also please notify us of any change of address. Thank You

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
☐ HONOUR

Receipts are issued for donations of \$10: and over

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: _____

Your donation of \$10.00 or more 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/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.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

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





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:

Trevor Da Silva Thelma Gwendolyn De Abreu Claude De Freitas	Flavio Da Silva Maurice Dummett Almindo de Azevedo Feijoo Derek Mendes
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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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