

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

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

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001



VOLUME 52

February 2017

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Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

For thirty-years, Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) has been **dedicated to providing aid and assistance to Guyanese organizations, individuals and others in need.** It has long advocated to the needs of various charities and communities and particularly in Guyana.

The following were the initial Directors of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and signed an Application for Incorporation of a Corporation dated December 1, 1986:

Initial Board of Directors

Desmond de Barros
Compton Callender decd.
Elizabeth Abdool
Joe Castanheiro
Mannie Da Silva decd.
Mervyn Vincent decd.
Anne Marie Reigber
Bernard Gonsalves decd.
Desiree De Abreu

The following are the current Board members and officers for June 2016 to May 2017 period:

Current Board of Directors

Officers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Pansy Hsan 905-426-6099	Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883

Directors

Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956	Stephen Choo-Wing 905-420-2789	Karen Heifa 416-287-2526	Anne Marie Reigber 416-755-6958	Henry Tiam- Fook 416-497-4308
Honorary Director Desmond de Barros				

Contd. On page 2, 3 & 4....

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*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our readers!

.....30 YEARS AND STILL GOING!!!

..... 2017 is here!!!

It is hard to believe that this year '2017' will be **thirty (30) years since we have been incorporated** under the Canadian Corporations Act! And ... we can **add on several years before that** – since we have been assisting our fellow brothers and sisters in Guyana long before we became incorporated.

It is also hard to believe that along with myself, so many of our members and volunteers continue with immense enthusiasm. Many of our long-term members and supporters were mentors ... Thank God for their foresight, love of neighbour and guidance.

We often ask ourselves WHY?? The most common answer is... **LOVE OF OUR FELLOW MAN!**

We ask ourselves **HOW?** The answers to 'how' vary ...

- ✚ the strength we get from God;
- ✚ the ongoing support we get from our supporters;
- ✚ the generosity of our community.

We are happy to have welcomed 'new blood' over the last decade and look forward to a continuation in this direction ... the need remains!

Since my election as President in 2009, one question that I am asked over-and-over-again is: **"How long can we continue doing this?"** An answer that some people must be tired of hearing is: **"The Best Is The Least We Can Do."** With that motto and with another frequently repeated answer: **"In unity there is strength"** ... we manage!

The **unity of our members, volunteers and supporters give us strength.**

Another question that often arises is: **"How else can we help?"** We have come to the point that we have what we do down to a science - and it is working so ... as the saying goes ... **'if it ain't broken – don't fix it!'** We do, however, assist **ongoing new groups which are formed in Guyana** – all of which help our fellow man. For example, a recently formed group is TIP – Together In Peace. Also, whenever we are made aware of 'new needs' we do our utmost to help in whatever way we can.

HOPE. Whenever I see or hear this word it reminds me about GCC and how many hundreds of people in Guyana we help. It is not easy to be hopeful in a world where so many people need assistance but – to those we help in Guyana – **GCC is a sign of hope.** Without all of you reading this newsletter right now ... we would not be able to give hope to our fellow Guyanese in need of our help – this would only be a dream.

Throughout this 30th Anniversary issue of our Newsletter, we will be mentioning several names that many of you will remember.

To everyone associated with Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. **now and in the past...THANK YOU...WE LOVE YOU...WE NEED YOU.**

Congratulations and God Bless you all.

Elizabeth Abdool

President



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.

Greetings from our 1st President

Desmond de Barros

Greetings on this 30th anniversary of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

It gives me great pleasure to be a part of the celebration of this charity, which has grown into something much larger than anything we contemplated all those years ago. It is heartwarming for me to know that this growth has come as a result of the hard work and tireless dedication of so many, who give of themselves to help the less fortunate.

Thanks ever so much to all the members and volunteers who have contributed to our success over the years. A "Special Thanks" to all of the new members, who have dedicated themselves to continuing this work. My sincere wish is that your involvement in GCC brings you all the sense of joy and purpose that it continues to bring me.

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary (Contd.)

Listed below are the Presidents of GCC from its incorporation to present:

Presidents (1986 to Current)	
1986 – 1996	Desmond de Barros
1996 – 2002	Joe Castanheiro
2002 – 2009	Bernard Gonsalves (decd. Sept. 2009)
2009 – Present	Elizabeth Abdool



Hats off to the following members who were elected or appointed to the Board of Directors over the years ... YES ... they certainly demonstrated the kind of dedication and teamwork, which have always been present and continue to benefit GCC:

1986 – 1996	Desmond de Barros (appointed Honorary Director January 12, 2011)
1986 – 1996	Compton Callender (decd.)
1986 – 1991	Mannie Da Silva (decd.)
1986 – 1991	Desiree De Abreu
1986 – 1991	Mervyn Vincent (decd.)
1986 – Current	Joseph Castanheiro
1986 – 2009	Bernard Gonsalves (decd.)
1986 – 1996 1999 – Current	Elizabeth Abdool
1986 – 1995 2001 – 2002 2010 – 2012 2016 – Current	Anne Marie Reigber
1992 – June 2000 2002 – 2011	Phillip Gulab
1992 – 1995 1996 – 1999	Yvonne Lopes
1992 – 1993	Romeo De Freitas (decd.)
1994 – 1996	Sherry Yacoob
1995 – 2000 2007 – 2009	Gerry Gouveia (decd.)
1995 – 1999 2000 – 2010	June Ann Sealey

1996 – 2007	Joan de Barros (decd.) (appointed Associate Director May 9, 2007)
1996 – 1997	Cecil Farinha
1996 – 2002	Anne Castanheiro (McWatt)
1997 – 2001	George Kamrudeen
1999 – 2000	Stan Niccols
2000 – 2016	Rahana Khan
2000 – 2004	Vanessa Chambers
2002 – Current	Kumar Singh
2004 – 2014	Michael Gonsalves
2008 – 2011	Dennis Choy
Oct. 2009 – 2010	Gloria Persaud
2010 – Current	Karen Heifa
2011 – Current	Dexter Gonsalves
2010 (May – Dec).	Allison Caldeira
2011 – 2014	Bruce Williams
2012 – 2013	Dereck Mahanger
2013 – Current	Stephen Choo-Wing
2014 – Current	Pansy Hsan
2014 – Current	Henry Tiam-Fook

Merger – GCC, as reported in our last newsletter, **originated from two groups:**

- **“The Alleluia Committee of Guyana”**, spearheaded by Vera Lopes decd. and Anne Marie Reigber to assist, St. Ann's Girls Orphanage in Georgetown and St. John Bosco Boys Orphanage in Plaisance, in maintaining their services and buildings; and
- **“The Organ Committee”** under the leadership of Mannie Da Silva decd., who responded to an urgent appeal from Fr. Harold Wong SJ, for funds to replace the aging Organ at the Brickdam Cathedral.

Out of this **merger** (which was proficiently guided by Compton Callender decd.), GCC was established as a Registered Charitable Organization.

GCC has been **recognized by the Guyana Government** and the **Guyana Consulate, Toronto, ON** for their **substantial contribution to Guyana** on various occasions:

October 2016	Golden Jubilee Community Service Organization Award for its significant involvement to the Guyanese Community.
May 2005	Most Outstanding Contribution to the Flood Relief Effort.
July 2003	Outstanding Organization Award for “Selfless Service to Guyana and the Guyanese Community in Canada for over three decades”.
October 2002	Award for “Longest Serving Guyanese Organization”.
May 1995	Award from the Government and People of Guyana for our “Support towards rebuilding the Health Care System”.
October 1994	Certificate of Appreciation for our “Valuable Contribution to the Health Care System”.

The following highlights some of GCC's accomplishments over the years:

1987	Letters Patent approved by Minister of Consumer & Corporate Affairs.
1987	First Valentine Dance.
1987	Fiscal Year set as July 1 to June 30 each year.
1988	Registered Number received from the Ontario Government as well as from Revenue Canada and its Corporate Seal.
1988	Venue change for the Valentine Dance.... and still there.
1989	Charitable Organization Status Tax Exempt Number granted.
1991	A 'Guyana Distribution Committee' formed, which never got off the ground.
1992	
1995	Venue change for the Bake Sale (the first outside a Church Hall).
1996	Obtained Canadian Government. approval to create Agency Agreements in order to send financial support to specific charities.
1997	First newsletter.
2002	GCC's Prayer was implemented and is said before every meeting. 'Dear Lord, we of Guyana Christian Charities, are gathered here in Your name. Guide us to make decisions that would be of maximum benefit to those whom we support in our dear land of Guyana'. Amen.'
2003	Mission Statement formulated and approved
2003	GCC's Logo was created and finalized. It was found to be 'perfect' and we are proud of it. Special thanks to Karen Gonsalves, (daughter of Bernard and Shirley Gonsalves), who voluntarily designed this for us. <div data-bbox="974 1018 1112 1144" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The Story:Start at the Maple Leaf = Canada ... and follow the solid line all the way to the end of the arrow = Guyana ... from: Canada >>> to: Guyana.</p>
2004	Website implemented and operational to broaden identity and receive donations (through CanadaHelps.org).
2005	Flood Disaster in Guyana. Donations obtained and sent to Guyana.
2008	Import/Export Number received from Canada Revenue Agency.
2008	Terms of Reference for various Committees finalized.
2009 & 2017	GCC's Policies & Procedures approved and updated. This was created with input from official Canadian Government requirements and will assist in ascertaining that we keep in line with rules and regulations pertaining to our Charitable Organization Status. Special thanks to Dennis Choy for his hard work on this project.
2013	Facebook created -- thanks to John O'Connor.

GCC's assistance to Charities in Guyana ... GCC's assistance to Charities in Guyana have to date exceeded CDN\$1,200,000 in financial support and value of goods shipped to a wide-range of groups, managed by different denominations in the following areas::

• AIDS (assisting with medication).
• Canadian University students -- who volunteer their time in Guyana.
• Care Facility -- hospice.
• Counselling Centre -- reintegrating a number of children into the regular school system and some with their families.
• Day care and Drop in centres for Street Children.

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

• Food -- through food supply/food hampers to families who cannot afford the necessities.
• Homes -- all types in various parts of the country, i.e. Convalescent Homes, Shelter Homes, The Palms, Children homes, etc.
• Hospitals -- throughout the country.
• Hostels, Temple & Churches -- through support groups, including St. Vincent de Paul Organizations.
• Literacy -- through Schools, Libraries, Colleges and the University of Guyana.
• Missions.
• National Commission on Disabilities.
• Orphanages.
• Outreach Programs in depressed communities.
• Prisons.
• Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre (Carmichael St.).
• Safe Houses.
• Seniors' Groups.
• Youths -- vocational Skills Training for Teens and Young Women.

Members, Volunteers, Donors, Auditors & Supporters (Past & Present) ...

Over these years, our success was **because of YOU** -- our **past and present** hardworking and dedicated members, volunteers, donors, auditors and supporters. There are numerous persons who have assisted in countless ways that would be too much to mention the names of -- **who baked, cooked, prepared and made varied beverages and delicacies, sorted and packed items received, as well as aided in numerous ways, not to mention those who supported our events.** A **"BIG THANK YOU"** to all of you for your kind spirit and for stopping by to offer us a helping hand. You are special to us. Your time, talents and commitment are our greatest asset. Your expertise and helping hands brought warmth and care annually that touch lives of many in a positive way. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special Thanks to SPOUSES ... All Directors and active Volunteers will agree that without the patience, co-operation and support of their partners -- they could never do or have done their GCC activities. SPOUSES ... you are all 'assistants'. Thank you ... way to go!

Our Newsletter Team ... now and in the past ... When we started preparing our first newsletter, computers were rare. All the input was typed, corrected over and over again (yes -- with white-outs), then photocopies (remember gestetner) ...and mailed...no emails! We have come a long way -- now we can correct over and over again just by pressing the delete key!! How times have changed.

We have had three Newsletter Co-ordinators ... we like to call them Editors but they insist that there are many people who give input and create articles, so they are not Editors. However, the three 'Co-ordinators' were: Yvonne Lopes, Stan Nicolls and currently Shirley Gonsalves. The initial newsletters laid the ground work ... now we can take advantage of desk top publishing techniques, font types and sizes ... all hopefully to make it easier for everyone. Yvonne, Stan and Shirley ... **THANK YOU!!!**

The Next Generation ... It is a known fact that our members, volunteers and supporters have made significant contributions to our organization, by founding and guiding its growth. As we all know, membership loss is inevitable, and they are the renewable resource that must constantly be replenished to keep the GCC "going and growing".

New members are the lifeblood of GCC. They provide the people upon whom we will depend to survive and to thrive in the future. They are the ones we need to influence, and we need to begin doing it **right now**. For this reason, attracting younger men and women in our activities will be vital, especially those who are **most of all committed**, as well as vibrant, capable and enthusiastic, -- this is fundamental to the future of GCC. This next generation, in large part, will have to dedicate the time and resources for notable involvements in GCC's activities. Yet younger supporters do not appear to be **replacing older patrons**. Some whispers, throughout the charitable and nonprofit sector, are that today's youth are not interested in yesterday's benefaction, -- that people are providing less to charity than previous generations.

One of our aspirations is that **some of our younger membership will derive from the children, families and close friends within our current and past membership-volunteer-support base.** We already see some of this support occurring in more of a volunteering/assisting type base, in varied undertakings, through the Gouveia's; the Tiam-Fook's; the Dumont's; the Williams'; the Stevenson's; the de Barros'; the De Abreu's; the Callender's; the Gonsalves',... True, **these relatives may only be volunteering or assisting in diverse projects**, but it is our hope that they, as well as added relatives of previous generations, will likely **continue some of the work their predecessors started, so that the longevity of GCC continues to flourish and that our mission will prevail.**



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MERCY RESIDENT CARE HOME



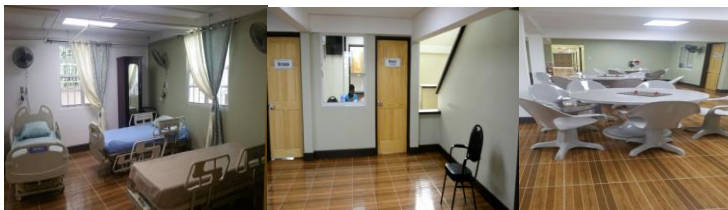
In fulfilling St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's mission to provide high quality services to all Guyanese, with a spirit of compassion, commitment and professionalism, Mercy Resident Care Home has been officially opened.

It caters to the elderly who can no longer live alone or care for their own personal needs, such as dressing, bathing, personal care, cooking and housekeeping, as well those who require constant medical attention.



This 33 bed facility located in Pere Street Kitty, under a superbly renovated ambiance, is appealing to the eye and is extremely comfortable for its residents. Their families have visited the Home prior to them moving and were very happy with this "Home away from Home" look.

Registered Nurse Leslyn Holder, is the Manager of Mercy Resident Care Home, and is no stranger to managing such a facility. She has come to us with over 10 years of managing a thousand-bed home out of Guyana. She has also implemented programs and activities, such as crocheting, knitting, domino games, jigsaw puzzles and reading, as well as other relaxing activities via television.



Nurse Holder, along with her team of designated nurses will ensure that the residents enjoy open air freedom, independence, privacy, security and companionship while they give the necessary medical support, in addressing their chronic needs. She will also ensure continuous hands-on specialized training in geriatric care to the nurses, which is an area of training, fairly new to most facilities in Guyana.

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and by extension The Mercy Resident Care Home are grateful to the many persons and organizations, both in Guyana and overseas, who have donated in cash and kind, thus making this facility a reality.

Anyone wishing to make donations towards this project may do so through Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc..... Thank you and God Bless.

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness..... Seneca



Many thanks for keeping me posted on the activities of GCC by sending this newsletter to me. I will share same with our girls and staff at St. Ann's so that they will appreciate what you and your organization do for them here all the way in Guyana. Attached you will find a photograph of our girls posing together to say "Thank You." May God bless you all. **Sr. Leonie De Costa,osu.**



Administration extends our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation to the Institution. The Residents were very happy to receive the many items you have sent for them. May GOD bless you all. **Palms Institution.**

We received the books from the Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. today. We are extremely grateful for this shipment of books and appreciate your efforts to once again source books for GBF. We have not been able to go through them as yet, but as soon as we do, we will let you know if we have received all books listed. Our sincerest gratitude to you and all members of the GCC for this timely gift. We would like to assure you that it will reach those vulnerable communities in Guyana. Thank you once again. **Deborah Ramotar-Skeete Administrative Co-coordinator The Guyana Book Foundation.**

Thanks so much for the twelve boxes you so generously sent for the patients from the Interior. I do appreciate the kindness of all. It is always so good to be able to bring a smile on the faces of those who have no relatives, as most of them are from the remote areas of our Interior, and sometimes are in hospital with no clothing etc. The kids especially who are suffering from leukemia, and have to be there for a very long time, are the ones that are most in need of games and books. Your generosity has helped my hospital ministry and I am very thankful to all. I also would like to thank Mr. Gobin and John Fernandes Shipping for their kindness. May God Bless you all. **Pat Pierre.**

The staff of Mercy Hospital would like to thank you very much for the Maintenance Tools that you arranged to get for us. This and all that you do for the Hospital is always very much appreciated. **Helen St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.**



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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

Come Join us and Enjoy

**SATURDAY,
MAY
20, 2017
at 7:30 p.m.**

SPRING DANCE

Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering
(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 Hwy 2)
Free Admission

New Donors ← Please contact: **Pansy Hsan**
905-426-6099



Guyana's History You thought you knew

Q.	What is the word "Guyana" means?
A.	Guyana is an Amerindian word meaning "Land of many waters." The longest river in Guyana is the Essequibo River, which is 627 miles long. This is 1/4th the size of the Mississippi River.
Q.	Where is Guyana located?
A.	Guyana is located in the north of South America, bordered by Venezuela to the west, Suriname to the east, Brazil to the south. In the north Guyana is bordered with the North Atlantic Ocean. Guyana is the 3rd smallest country on the mainland of South America (after Suriname and French Guiana) and around 70% of the total area is covered by the rain forests, reportedly it has the largest rain forests in the world.
Q.	Where did Europeans first settle in Guyana?
A.	Old Fort Nassau on the Berbice River. Abraham van Pere, a Dutchman, sailed up the river in September 1627 with forty men and twenty youths and settled there with the intention of trading with the Amerindians. Trade was done in salt, tobacco, wood and annatto (annatto), a dye mainly for fabrics.

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

Receipts are issued for donations of \$20 and over

Name _____

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Your donation of \$10.00 or more is tax-deductible. CHARITABLE NO. 89096-5643-RR0001. A receipt will be mailed, if so requested.

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
- ☐ OTHER

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

email _____ Phone _____

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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

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(February and October)

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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, and supporters of GCC, who have recently passed, and in particular:

Derek Barbeito
Clement Gonsalves
Ivor Gonsalves

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.

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