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GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001
1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON L1X 2B9

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VOL. 31

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



GCC continues to focus its funds on programs that support children and their families, in the areas of health and social services, community development, and education.

A classic example is our recent commitment to pay for a **AMRI** procedure carried out on a nine and a half year old Guyanese boy – Dhanarine Persaud, with Congenital Heart Disease, who underwent heart surgery under the auspices of the Herbie Fund in 1998. He currently resides in Canada under humanitarian grounds, and is awaiting formal status of approval from Immigration Canada. The cost of the procedure is \$865.00, which is not covered by OHIP due to his residence status. **Our Spring and Autumn Dances are specifically held to assist similar types of health undertakings.**

FLOOD - RELIEF AFTERMATH REPORT



In our last newsletter, we gave a breakdown of the funds raised and allocated, with a balance withheld for future disbursements of \$5,000.63. You are assured that these funds will be used for the victims of this or any other disaster of this nature.

To continue our accountability on the Flood Relief Program, we are happy to report that approximately 75% of the \$10,256.00 entrusted with the R. C. Bishop has already been utilized. Over 250 needy families, who were most seriously affected by the disastrous flood, have been assisted. The remaining 25% will also be disbursed in accordance with the terms of the agreement established specifically for this purpose.

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 -- children, families, individuals, -- and others in need.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUNDS -- helping kids of low income families



(June Ann Sealey)

I had an opportunity of paying a visit to the Marian Academy when I was in Guyana last year and was overwhelmed by *the standards of culture, the many classes offered, the respect for the teachers, the well kept premises, the literary standards and the programs for children, some for those with special talents.* Computer, sewing, cooking classes, singing, dancing and theatre talents are put to good use. Participation in swimming and other athletic activities is encouraged and is successful.

At Marian Academy, there is already a very effective Scout group, which together with Girl Guides, actively participated in The World Scout Jamboree on the Internet. This provides opportunity to build friendships in scouting lives in other countries and has aided their involvement in the 2005 first Scout Camp for peace and harmony worldwide.

Without government funding, school fees are of course high, -- hence GCC's efforts to promote funding for scholarships for children of low income families. Currently, we have continued to fund four (4) fully sponsored by individuals, and five (5) group scholarships for the school year which began in September.

Each group is funded by 15 or 16 subscribers who undertake to contribute Cdn\$100/year for five years of high school and graduation. We encourage our readers and friends to participate in our next group scholarship by committing to a contribution of Cdn\$100 in May of this year for classes beginning in September 2006. Income Tax receipts will be issued. **You will be helping to transform the lives of children through education.** For further information, please contact **June Ann Sealey – Tel. No. 416-283-4818 -- email: jastheone@rogers.com**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

As I write this article, it is time to reflect on the past including memories of those who are no longer with us -- it is also a time to make plans for the future. The future of GCC hinges on *recruiting new members and volunteers, at the same time, retaining the current group, coming up with new fundraising ideas, etc., and most importantly, encouraging the younger generation to participate in this very worthwhile mission.*

We invite you to join us in our pursuit and encourage you to take the next step towards converting your compassion into action.

The inspiration of GCC was founded by a group of enthusiastic, dedicated, generous and compassionate people. They had a keen sense of teamwork and what services were appropriate, while at the same time being cost-effective. **These qualities still serve as the driving efforts of our organization.**

Our work will never be done. But in pursuit of our mission we will learn, contribute, have fun -- and best of all -- we will meet some extraordinary people who share with us a passion for making a true impact. It is imperative to have members volunteering to serve -- *you have the chance to make a difference.*

One of our accomplishments that we are proud to share with you is, over the years we have combined our efforts with various not-for-profit organizations, here and also in Guyana, to assist someone or an organization in need. This reflects countless ways in which the lives of individuals and families have been improved or enriched through these united collaborations.

I am also reaching out to you for support, in assisting us to find generous donors of storage space, in which to store the overwhelming amount of items donated on an almost daily basis. Our volunteer packers and sorters work extremely hard, sometimes under difficult weather conditions and coping with the lack of adequate space. GCC is forever grateful to Lauren Harry and Ryhad Hamid for the facilities they have provided us for many years, especially for this purpose. A suggestion of setting up depots in various areas, such as Mississauga, Oshawa etc. where donations can be dropped off, will make it a lot easier for our volunteers to collect these items from designated points. If you can offer a helping hand in this regard, or are able to assist in picking up donated items, please contact me or any other officer at your convenience.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to our dedicated supporters, friends, members and volunteers for their continued interest in our work. I look to the future with absolute confidence, knowing that you would be solidly behind us in all our impending endeavors.

Have a most enjoyable summer! God's Blessings.

Bernard Gonsalves

GOOD NEWS FOR RESIDENTS OF THE PALMS

(Joan De Barros)



After many years of expecting renovations to be done to the two remaining decaying buildings that house the residents of the **PALMS GERIATRIC INSTITUTION** at its prime location on Brickdam, they were either cancelled or did not happen. We are extremely happy recently to receive the **VERY GOOD NEWS** that "Repairs and New Programs will begin at the Palms on **Sunday, March 26, 2006**. The Government Information Agency also advised that new programs have been introduced for the 231 residents which include a library section and the establishment of a kitchen garden for the more agile. Presently, the 152 staff members provide nursing care and counseling services and a physiotherapy department is operated in the institution by the ministry of health.

Over the years, GCC has continued to support the Palms by sending *wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and walking canes, large pots and other kitchen utensils, medical supplies, bed linen, towels, clothing, shoes, socks, slippers some toiletries, and magazines*, with our shipments and to respond to some requests.

On the visit of one of our members a few years ago, we learned of their need to replace a cooler which extended the life of their fruits and vegetables and a food processor that ground their meats, etc. which no longer worked and for a supply of waterproof/washable bed squares.

We purchased and shipped the bed squares quickly, and a custom made cooler and a meat grinder were later purchased and shipped to the Palms. **Funds for these two were provided by the Palms Committee (GCC being a part of this Committee).** Originally, this Committee had raised funds for the renovation project, but halted its fundraising activities many years ago when the cost of renovating appeared beyond their resources. **It makes us very happy to know that the lives of the present 231 and future residents of this historical institution are about to be enhanced.**

*Helen Steiner Rice once wrote
"Brighten the Corner where you are*

*We cannot all be famous or be listed in Who's Who
But every person great or small has important work to do
For seldom do we realize the importance of small deeds
Or to what degree of greatness unnoticed kindness leads."*

Volunteers...A Helping Hand

GCC welcomes new volunteers, as our organization relies heavily on these compassionate people, who give of their time and skills to assist in carrying out its diverse humanitarian endeavors. We haven't forgotten that everyone has numerous demands on their time. Because we know how valuable your time is, we will discuss and listen to you regarding the amount of volunteer time that you can offer. **If you are interested, please contact Joan De Barros at (905) 837-0135 or through email des24@rogers.com**



REPORT ON SOME OF OUR CHARITIES: ST. ANN'S ORPHANAGE

The following are highlights from a detailed letter received from Sister Beatrice Fernandes, OSU, and Sister Mary Peter Ngui, OSU:

- ⇒ *A number of the girls Said goodbye, however, our number remains at just over fifty, as we have taken in new girls who are in need.*
- ⇒ *Our girls are attending thirteen different schools. This takes a toll of our time and energy as each school demands our participation in PTA meetings, activities as well as Fundraising, Sports, Prize-giving, etc. etc. For this reason, as well as because of the moral and religious education which are not offered at other schools, we are trying to send as many as possible of our younger girls to the Marian Academy. For this, we are most grateful to the number of you who assist us in providing the tuition fees we need as well as school supplies which this demands.*
- ⇒ *Have to attend to our plumbing system which seems to need a thorough overhaul. We have been able to acquire two more very large tanks which make it easier for us to ensure a water supply most of the time.*

ST JOHN BOSCO ORPHANAGE.... A First!!

Over the past few months St John Bosco Orphanage *for the first time* appointed a lay person to the position of Administrator. Grace Daniels now holds this position. Our initial dealing with her was very positive and we look forward to continued smooth relations. Good luck to Grace Daniels and Best Wishes to Sister Julie Matthews RSM, Sister in Charge, and to all the boys at St. John Bosco.

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHER & BYER HOMES

This is another charity added to our list. (Established in 1975 and located on Robb Street in Georgetown). It is run by volunteers and caters only for female seniors. Their letter of appeal included some of their needs such as: *wash rags, bath soap, single bed sheets, curtains, bath towels, adult pampers, serving trays, kitchen towels* And the list goes on!!!

STREET PRISON AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

Lauren Harry who was in Guyana for Christmas, as customary, hosted street parties for the children and parents of Tiger Bay as well as at Paradise Village. We have now adopted this location as well as another area. One would not believe the poverty. One little boy who I was told was doing very well at school recited a scripture and was presented with one of the bicycles. Tears came to our eyes seeing the joy on the face of that little boy and his friends.

A similar party was hosted at the Georgetown Prison on Old Years day. The inmates were overjoyed – not having such quality and quantity of food in a long, long time.

If I have been of service, if I have glimpsed more of the nature and essence of ultimate good, if I am inspired to reach wider horizons of thought and action, if I am at peace with myself, it has been a successful day ALEX NOBLE

GCC REMEMBERS ITS DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS...

Mrs. Wilhelmina De Abreu (Gerry Gouveia)

GCC is saddened at the passing of Wilhelmina De Abreu who supported our work almost from our inception. She died on March 10th, 2006 and was in her 89th year. Wilhelmina (*or Mums as she was affectionately known*) was the wife of the late Frank De'Abreu retired Asst. Commissioner of the British Guiana Police Force and head for many years of the Criminal Investigation Division They were the admiring parents of eight children.

The early years of their marriage, of course, were difficult ones. Being the wife of a police officer making a career in criminal investigation carried many challenges. Frank's work required long hours, many away from home. The family was also called upon to relocate frequently; 10 moves into 13 homes, many in the countryside before finally being assigned to Headquarters in Georgetown. The logistics of these moves must have been staggering. Frank had moved to his new assignment, his flock of chickens relocated safely. The moving of the contents and set up in the new houses was Wilhelmina's responsibility, not a task to be relished but Wilhelmina somehow carried it out, over and over again, with very small children in tow.

"Mums" lived to assist others. Her ambition was to be a teacher. When, for mainly financial reasons, she was denied this vocation she was determined to go one better. She would find and recruit others to the profession. Thus she guided, encouraged and, ultimately, recruited 5 of her children to the profession of teaching.

In 1980 "Mums" turned her immense energies and skills to helping our organization in fund raising efforts. She gathered a small group and they began making Curry and Dahl Puri for our annual Food and Bake Sale. They were not many of them but over the years the group grew to include Des De'Abreu, her daughter in law and Anne Marie Reigber, as well as several of her grandchildren, nieces and friends. They baked for weeks in advance and packaged the items for sale on the day of the sale. When the Curry and Dahl Puri were all made, usually about 800, she would turn her attention to making Salara and Cassava Pone These were all donated to the Food Fair. Then she would attend the sale, sell her excellent products and find some time to socialize with her many friends.

She was tireless, it seemed, yet she never ceased to greet her extended family and friends with her warm, genuine smile and quiet words of encouragement. Wilhelmina possessed an inner strength which she combined with sheer joy of giving of herself. She led an exemplary life and set a very high standard of service for us to emulate.

Thank you, "Mums". Thank you from the many needy in Guyana who ultimately benefited from your dedication to the cause. Well done good and faithful servant.

We also Remember Mervyn Belgrave, who passed away on February 22 this year. During his life in Canada, Mervyn and his wife, Yvonne, joined our team of Packing & Shipping volunteers evincing his care for the peoples of Guyana until his health began to fail. Those who knew him, will remember how modest he always was in spite of his Academia Excellence, having won the Guyana Scholarship as a student of St. Stanislaus College, as well as being one of their outstanding athletes of his time. His Civil Engineering Degree was pursued in England and he returned to Guyana to use his talents there for some years before emigrating to Canada where he continued in his career. He was a dedicated husband and father to his beautiful wife, Yvonne, two daughters, and 5 grandchildren and to his home, ever mindful of others and filled with compassion for those in need. He was a "gentle man" and a "gentleman". We very much regret his life was shortened by his unexpected illness but he will no doubt go on living in the hearts and minds of his loving family and valued friends. Thank you, Mervyn, for all you did while you could in God's name. – it was a pleasure knowing you.

REQUESTS

Persons who feel that they can give assistance with the following items are kindly asked to contact us:



Guitars – Churches are in need of **guitars for masses** as well as to encourage the talented young to participate.



Boat Engine -- Fr. Pablo from Santa Rosa, North West District is asking for assistance to purchase an **outboard engine**. He explained that a boat is the only means of communication/transportation with the various communities along the river areas.

Shipping:

(Joan De Barros)



As we write this report for our Newsletter, we are currently endeavoring to have enough packed to fill a 40 ft. Container for shipment by early May -- our first for this year. Packing during the winter months, which is not entirely indoors, often gets disrupted by very low temperatures, snow and ice that seem to occur more on Thursdays. With Spring here, we are making better strides to allocate and pack for shipment the immense lot of supplies given to us continuously throughout 2005 and this year for 75 charitable institutions, 3 prisons, 7 hospitals, the Enmore Clinic and the Burn Care Unit we now assist across the country, some of which were severely damaged by the 2005 Floods. Looking back to 2001, there were then 5 hospitals and 52 other recipients being assisted that increase yearly.

The customary items are being sent, viz. clothing and shoes for children and adults, medical supplies, sewing machines, fabric & related supplies, computers for schools in the city as well as for inland locations, printers, books, school supplies, craft items, soccer outfits and shoes, tennis balls, strollers, 16 wheelchairs and 5 walkers, crutches, walking canes, 10 baby cribs, toiletries, games and toys, pots, a toaster oven, coffee maker, other cooking utensils, much needed bed linen, towels and many other household items. An amazing number of games, puzzles approx. 50, and 150 religious and classic children's books, art supplies, a recorder and music book, plastic mugs, toys, etc. were packed and donated by one of our new members for the St. Ignatius Mission in Lethem and may be shared with the Mission in Aishalton.

We are hoping to receive a fairly large supply of packaged soups and Cappuccino beverage as we did last year; walkers, wheelchairs and other hospital furnishings; to add to the bicycles and I.V. poles that have been repaired and ready for this shipment. All in all, it will be a shipment to fill great needs and of considerable value.

As always, we would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to our donors and faithful supporters, especially those who provide storage and those who assist with the enormous weekly task of collecting, packing and shipping. Your donations of **used clothing, shoes, and household linens in clean good condition** find their way into many poor homes in Guyana, thereby helping to ease the financial burden of the less fortunate. *Your spirit and generosity given to this important aspect of our organization encourages us to carry on.*

THANK YOU!

MAIL BOX

Extracts from some letters of appreciation for our assistance

Shaheed's Boys & Girls Orphanages (Kitty and Oleander Gardens). "On behalf of the Orphanages I would like to thank you for your generous gift of food stuff, clothes, games, books, etc. Your commitment to helping us care for the children is sincerely appreciated. With the help of donations from supporters such as you we will continue to see improvements in the lives of the children."

Bright Horizon Family Home (Kuru-Kururu). "As you continually work in this part of God's vineyard – God's overflowing blessings will be yours For the past 36 years we have been involved here working voluntarily for needy children. The work is a great one and we desperately need persons like you to stand with us. We are pushing for the extension. The foundation is already laid: 75 x 45. This will help us to accommodate more homeless children. Thanks for all the drinks and the balls." A long list of needs was attached to this letter including: pots, bread and cake pans, cake mixture, gas stove, drinking glasses & mugs, fridge, table cloths, TV, bunk beds, shoe racks, pillows and pillow slips ---- and the list goes on!

Mercy Wings Vocational Centre. "We are indeed grateful for your unwavering support to this ministry over the years. It has now been six years since we are educating the children of Sophia and its environs, and we are certainly proud of our achievements. Some of our graduates have started their own businesses and others have joined the world of work. Thirty four trainees graduated in 2005"

Scarboro Foreign Missions Lay Missionaries. ".....It is so seldom I get to use this e-mail operation out here in the Rupununi that I have to keep everything short. Yes, we received your most welcome and wonderful boxes of soooooo much. We had them shipped down here to the Rupununi and it was wonderful I am in the process of having a Women's creative centre built with 6 new treadle sewing machines, and hopefully 2 spinning wheels. If you ever hear of anyone that wants to get rid of a spinning wheel (that works or parts for one) please remember us in the Rupununi"

Sister Celina -- "Thanks so much for all your help. GCC continues to be such a source of great help to us here in Guyana and we seem to be adding more on. I ask God's blessings on everyone at GCC. May God continue to be generous and gracious to you all as you are to others. Trusting in God's Divine power and love".

Wendy Grenada -- "Thank you for the Christmas gifts for the women, men, and children of Guyana. Some were distributed in the Tiger Bay area who gratefully received these gifts of love. On Dec. 24, I distributed hampers of clothing, food, toys, school supplies, candies and bed linen to senior citizens and needy families in the East La Penitence Island in Sussex Street.... on December 23, I was privileged to distribute your gifts of Teddy Bears at a Christmas Party hosted by Lauren Harry and friends in Tiger Bay ..".

St. Bernadette's Hostel. "We are always grateful for whatever you send as it is a great help to the poorer girls and also their mothers"

Uncle Eddie's Home. ".....wish to express its heartfelt thanks to you for the kind contributions you make to the Home. These have made a positive difference to the operations of the home and we look forward to a continued partnership with you in this regard."

Buxton/Friendship Golden Age Seniors Club. "Thank you most sincerely for your donation of clothing and other items. Fortunately there was no flooding in the area, unlike last year when nearly all our major activities were affected"



It is always in your power to help those in need



2006 UPCOMING EVENTS

... Mark your calendars *and*
... Book your tickets early



AUTUMN BARN DANCE BASH

SATURDAY, October 7, 2006

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

Band: -- To be determined
D.J.: -- Raymond "Bake" Perreira

For Tickets: Call: Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135
Theresa Gonsalves -- 416-284-2496
Bernard Gonsalves -- 905-683-1030

ANNUAL FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2006-- 1:00 P.M.

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall
1490 Markham Road



New Donors: Please call
Rahana Khan -- 905-282-3110



Guyana's History - You thought you knew

- Q:** Name the surveyor who became Curator of the Guyana (British Guiana) Museum.
- A:** Vincent Roth. He also founded the zoo in the Botanical Gardens. Roth, who was also a journalist and naturalist, authored books on Guyanese history and wildlife. He worked as surveyor and magistrate for 30 years. Roth arrived in British Guiana in 1907, when he was 18 years old, and departed for Barbados in 1964.
- Q:** Who were the Winkel slaves of British Guiana and why were they significant?
- A:** They were highly competent carpenters, bricklayers, brickmakers, coopers and artisans generally. They worked under an officer equivalent to a Director of Public Works, and were hired out to private persons from time to time. They were the first slaves in British Guiana to be freed as a group and this is especially noteworthy because they were given their freedom before emancipation. To this day, one area in New Amsterdam is called Winkel, for it was there that these interesting people lived.

YES! I WANT TO HELP

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other

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.
1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON. L1X 2B9

Donations may also be made through the website:
CanadaHelps.org

FRIENDS OF GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

- Yes, I wish to become a member of your organization
- Yes, I wish to assist with the 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 _____ Phone: _____

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON L1X 2B9

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

- I would like to be on your Newsletter Mailing List
- My address has been changed

Name _____

Address _____

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
1612 Arathorn Court, Pickering, ON L1X 2B9

Thank you for your generosity and support

CALL US TO ADVERTISE

We publish two newsletters each year
(**May and October**)

If you would like to advertise...

Please call **Stan Niccols**

416-651-2482



Some Facts and Figures

- ❖ **Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is a registered Canadian charitable organization dedicated to helping various organizations that care for the sick and the needy.**
- ❖ **You can request that your United Way contributions be specifically designated to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. – Please contact your Human Resources Department.**
- ❖ **When a loved one passes away you can notify the funeral home and include in the obituary that you wish to have donations go to GCC's Loving Memory Program to commemorate your loved ones in lieu of flowers. -- Most funeral homes have our address or contact Joan De Barros at (905) 837-0135 or through email des24@rogers.com**
- ❖ **Assistance is given to the Guyanese community as a whole, regardless of race or creed. To date the list of organizations we help number 75, including eight hospitals.**
- ❖ **Confirmation is received by us for items shipped from the various organizations.**
- ❖ **The value of the items we send to Guyana is approximately six times the funds we raise.**
- ❖ **Approximately 50% of funds raised are used for shipping and related costs.**
- ❖ **All administration of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is accomplished on a volunteer basis and there are no paid employees.**