

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON M1C 2Z8

Website: <http://www.gcccanada.org> Email: info@gcccanada.org

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The St John Bosco Orphanage, one of the charities that GCC supports, has been providing a home for orphaned boys since 1879, recently moved into a new and more homely facility. The Catholic Sisters of Mercy has run the orphanage since 1902. At present it is home to 46 boys between the ages of four and sixteen years old.



The new structure has a more “homely” atmosphere and will help to better meet the emotional and psychological needs of the boys, allowing house mothers to be able to tend to individual needs of the boys.

The building, which cost \$90 million, was made possible through grants from funding agencies in the United States and donations from Guyanese at home and abroad. It is more spacious, with an increase in sleeping accommodations (young boys in dorms and older boys in rooms), a living room, sitting room, study rooms, computer room, library, counselling room and laundry.

The Orphanage is represented by Mother Superior Julie Matthews as Director and Grace Daniels is the Administrator. Like other institutions of its kind, the Orphanage receives a government subvention but basically survives on donors' help.

OUR MISSION

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit charitable organization, registered in Canada, dedicated to providing aid & Assistance to Guyanese, — Children, Families & individuals.— & others in need.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2009-2010			
OFFICERS			
President Elizabeth Abdool 416-499-1528	Vice President Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Secretary Gloria Persaud 905-475-1542	Treasurer Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956
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Dennis Choy 905-839-0434	Rahana Khan 416-282-3110	Michael Gonsalves 416-420-0565	Philip Gulab 905-475-2908
June Ann Sealey 416-283-4818			
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR			
Joan De Barros -- 905-837-0135			
TREASURER ASSISTANT			
Jivanne Foster -- 905-420-9326			

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

'THE BEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO'

It is certainly surprising how time flies!!! I cannot believe that a year has already gone by since I was elected President of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. Quite a year it has been!! I am most grateful to the Board of Directors, Members, Volunteers and Supporters for their encouragement and confidence.

Although I have been associated with GCC from its inception, there is always something new happening...all for 'the good' of those we assist in Guyana. The need for assistance continues and we keep reminding ourselves that 'The Best is the Least we can do'.

Since the last Newsletter our two (2) major fund raising events took place. In October, 2009 the Annual Food & Bake Sale was held. Our donors and supporters are second to none. Once again it was a tremendous success. *We do however need more BAKERS AND COOKS* for our next Food and Bake Sale scheduled for October 31, 2010. We just don't seem to be able to keep up with the demand for all the delicious Guyanese goodies! If you can possibly assist us in this area – please contact

Rahana Khan -- 416-282-3110

Yvonne Lopes -- 416-438-6118

In February 2010, the Annual Valentine Dance was organized and what an event that was! GCC's Valentine Dances have become a 'must' for so many people - and we are attracting new-comers each year. The ambiance is at the 100% level ... the organization of the Dinner Service has been referred to by attendees as 'superb'. It is no easy task but 450 people are served within half-an-hour and things are cleared away for dancing to commence at 9:00 p.m. as planned. From the large number of party-goers it was remarkable that only three (3) improvement suggestions were received. That is a fabulous percentage. We will certainly look closely at the suggestions. Thank you to all .. our supporters and volunteers alike.

Later in this issue you will read about some very special supporters. In my years of involvement with Guyana Christian Charities, people continue to amaze me! The generosity and creativity of people like these is what keeps us in the position to be able to help those less fortunate in Guyana. **Thank You!**

God bless you all.

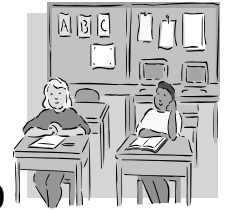
Elizabeth Abdool

SPECIAL REQUEST



GCC keeps looking for ways to keep costs to a minimum. It has been suggested that we use email in order to reduce the cost of mailing newsletters. If possible, could you send us your email address? Hope to hear from many of you! Please send the information to info@gcccanada.org. Our newsletter is also available electronically via our website www.gcccanada.org.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



THE BERNARD GONSALVES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to recognize the dedication and significant contribution made to GCC for many years by our recent past president. This fund will be linked to the Marian Academy Scholarship Fund and will follow the same criteria in affording less fortunate youths who have shown an aptitude for learning, and given the opportunity to achieve a higher education (See below).

If you are willing to participate in this worthy program, please contact Karen Heifa at 416- 287-2526 or send your cheque payable to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. Also please note that those who contribute to The United Way in the workplace, etc., can specifically request that your contributions be designated to this Scholarship Fund. Income tax receipts are provided for these contributions, and you can transform the life of another child by providing him/her with a good education that will last a life-time.

MARIAN ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The GCC Marian Academy Scholarship program was inaugurated in July 2000 in response to a request from St. Ann's Orphanage to provide financial assistance to less fortunate students who had shown an aptitude for learning and furthering their education -- the opportunity to attend the Marian Academy. In support of this request, GCC was able to get a commitment from 30 individuals to donate \$100.00 per year for 5 years to sponsor 2 scholarships.

Thanks to the hard work of our late President, Bernard Gonsalves, by the school year 2009, the number of scholarships had increased over the years from 2 to a grand total of 13 scholarships. At first these scholarships were given to students from St. Ann's only, but the program was expanded to include deserving and talented students to enable them the opportunity of a higher level of education.

Six of the 13 scholarships are funded by 4 individuals who contribute to \$1,500 per year for 5 years while the remaining 7 scholarships are funded by a number of people who contribute to \$100.00 per year for 5 years.

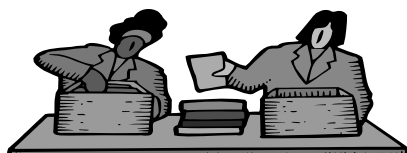
We receive annual reports on each of the scholarship recipients and are therefore able to follow their progress.

Two scholarships are in their final year and we would like to be able to sponsor 2 new recipients. This would therefore require donors who would commit to at least \$100.00 per year for 5 years. Each scholarship costs approximately Can. \$1,500 per year, which includes contingency fees and book rentals and tuition.

To date we have enabled 12 students to complete their secondary education and a further 13 are in the process of accomplishing theirs for a total 25 students.

Karen Heifa is the contact for both Scholarship Programs. Please contact her at 416-450-4327 or kheifa@rogers.com.

PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



This year, our first shipment, a 40-ft. container of donations to charities, communities, individuals and organizations in Guyana, is expected to be ready by the end of May, 2010. Distribution in Guyana should be made in June/July.

Included in this shipment are large amounts of new items urgently required and requested by various charities. GCC has allocated funding for the purchase of these new items. Also, significant contributions were made by a number of individuals and organizations to address these needs. Some of the donations received were:

- (1) **M**edical supplies and equipment, by Bibi Rampersaud of North York General Hospital; Rhelda Stockall of York Central Hospital; and Elaine Phipps who is involved in humanitarian works in Guyana.
- (2) Clothing, bicycles, TV, books, etc. from **M**argaret and Udo Hess, friends 'South of the Border'.
- (3) **T**en computer systems, by Tony Carr for the King of Glory Church in Bellevue. These will be used in the Education Program run by the Church.

The shipment also consists of: *clothing, shoes, medical supplies and equipment, wheelchairs, walkers, bicycles, sewing machines and fabrics, backpacks filled with school supplies, toys, bed linens and kitchen utensils, etc.*

The Packing, Transportation and Shipping Committee of GCC met with Billy Fernandes during his recent trip to Canada to obtain some feedback on our donations to charities in Guyana.



Back Row: L-R -- Stephen Choo-Wing, Yoachim Reigber, Dennis Choy, Billy Fernandes, Kumar Singh

Front Row: L-R -- Terry DeFreitas, Anne Marie Reigber, Sandra Fernandes

Billy and Sandra (Billy's wife) pointed out that while the donations are much needed, care should be exercised to ensure that the quality is of a certain standard and should not show disrespect to the recipients. In other words, the items must be usable in Guyana and the quality must not be substandard. Computers and electronics must be in good working condition and the models must be as recent as possible. Clothing, etc. must be clean and appropriate for the weather conditions.

GCC also provided funding and equipment to the People of Haiti during the recent national earthquake disaster. 14 wheelchairs were donated and shipped to Pierspective Entraide Humanitaire, an organization in Haiti for distribution, through the Red Cross.

During a recent visit to Guyana to distribute donations to the needy, one of our members (Lauren Harry -- known as Sister H) met with Food For The Poor (FFTP). This meeting was arranged by GCC with the FFTP Head Office in Florida and the local staff in Guyana. On arrival, FFTP greeted Sister H with a truckload of items including foodstuff, shoes, clothing, bicycles, etc. Sister H expressed her gratitude to Leon Davis and his staff at FFTP for all the donations, transportation and other assistance. She said it was her best ever trip helping the needy in Guyana.

To all those who donate items for shipment and to all our volunteers who assist in the different areas of activities, we thank you for your assistance and continued support. You make it possible for us to accomplish our goals.

Please continue to call one of the following members if you have usable items for donation, or if you would like to become a member or volunteer in our organization. We need your help to continue our charitable work.

Terry DeFreitas	416-438-5992
Anne Marie Reigber	416-755-6958
Stephen Choo Wing	416-420-2789
Desmond de Barros	416-837-0135
Kumar Singh	416-498-9962

WINNERS OF RAFFLES & DOOR PRIZES

Congratulations to the following winners ...

October 2009 Food and Bake Sale Raffle Results

1st prize – Tablecloth -- *George*

2nd prize – Chateau des Charmes Wine Basket -- *Bernice Lord*

3rd prize – Food Hamper -- *Marlan Singh*

Valentine Dance Raffle Winners

1st prize – 2 Basketball Tickets (Raptors vs Warriors) -- *Betty Rawtesh*

2nd prize – 2 Basketball Tickets(Raptors vs Warriors) -- *Aviva Carson*

3rd prize – Gold Chain and Pendant -- *Eric Stephenson*

4th prize – Bulova Clock -- *Feria Cletus*

Consolation Prize – 45 piece Candle Set -- *Ivan Markiet*

You Too Can Help



Consider.....do you have lots of items in good condition laying around the house that you might routinely toss out and which can benefit the poor and needy?..... such as household items, kitchen utensils, plastic cutlery/plates/cups, walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, skipping ropes, bicycles, soccer and basket balls, sheets (double and twins) sewing machines, etc. **Please give us a call - As always, we appreciate your contributions.**

Guyana Christian Charities is VERY fortunate ...

We recently had some very generous gifts from some of our loyal supporters.

An anonymous Guyanese having read about our new programs and special needs in the last Newsletter responded with a gift of 900 filled backpacks, which are being sent to 16 different orphanages and groups. We were also given pain relievers, adult undergarments, diapers, children's clothing, pots, pans and kitchen utensils, and other items.

This can only be described as 'overwhelming generosity'. May this donor be richly blessed. THANK YOU for caring!

A member and an ardent supporter, Rev. John O'Connor who resides in Nova Scotia, came up with a very unique and unusual way of raising money for GCC. Rev. John has a 'Photographer's Eye' and sold 2 of his photographs which will be used as bulletin covers for the United Churches in Canada ... and he donated the monies he received to GCC.



In addition to this, Rev. John organized a 'Garden Tour' composed of his photographs in aid of the following three projects in Guyana:

- (1) School of Nursing, St Joseph's Mercy Hospital (where he has volunteered for the last seven (7) years as a teacher at the School of Nursing;
- (2) St. Ann's Girls Orphanage; and
- (3) St. John Bosco Boys' Orphanage.

We have since received a very generous donation from the proceeds of the 'Garden Tour'. **THANK YOU Rev. John.**

This is a unique and creative way to raise funds. Maybe some of our readers may come up with other ideas, so that we can assist those less fortunate in Guyana.

APPRECIATION

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the families of the following deceased persons who recently listed Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

Mrs. Muriel Vaughn
Mrs. Evelyn Man-Son-Hing
Mrs. Bernice Lopes-DeGarca
Mr. Thomas deCastro

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

IN MEMORY

BERNICE LOPES and her husband, Bernie, arrived in Canada in May 1984 from Guyana and, true to form, Bernice started to look around for ways in which she could be of use to others. She soon found that the Church herself and Bernie attended could use her talent in sewing ... and right away went to work, providing this service whenever necessary. Soon after that, she was made aware of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and their need for helpers to pack boxes for shipment of items to charitable organizations in Guyana.

Bernice immediately joined the group helping out in the packing of boxes and extended her service in the Organization to assisting with the Annual Bake Sale, specifically in the "Sweet Tooth" stall – eventually running it herself. She continued to do so until ill health made it too taxing but was always in attendance at various events and gave her whole-hearted support to GCC.

As her illness progressed, Bernice was no longer able to participate in these activities and was sorely missed. With her death on March 6, 2010, the Organization lost one of its hardest workers and we all lost one of our most treasured helpers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Bernie on this tremendous loss which we share with him.

FATHER HAROLD WONG, S.J. passed away on Friday, April 2, 2010 at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Guyana.

Back in December, 1979 Father Wong contacted and met with several of his Guyanese friends who were resident in Canada with a request to assist in raising funds to repair the Pipe Organ at the Brickdam Cathedral in Georgetown, Guyana. He got full support and out of this activity and on looking back we could now say that his efforts contributed in bringing together a group of Guyanese to help their homeland and has expanded to where we are today ... he helped to give us a push-start.....Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. was born and officially registered in 1987.

Many will recall that Fr. Wong was Editor of the Catholic Standard in Guyana for several years starting in 1967 and was instrumental in transforming the Catholic Standard from a mostly Parochial paper to one of influence in Guyanese society as a whole by changing the image of the standard to reflect the Roman Catholic Church's concern for the people of Guyana.

Our sympathy goes out to Fr. Wong's family – several living in Canada – some of whom are volunteers and supporters of our Organization.

The best portion of a good man's life - his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.

~William Wordsworth



2010 UPCOMING EVENTS



Autumn Dance September 25, 2010

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

**Music: BAND: Triple Play &
D.J.: Raymond "Bake" Pereira**



- Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
 - Mike Gonsalves -- 416- 420-0565
 - Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135
 - Theresa Gonsalves -- 416-284-2496
 - Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526
- or any GCC member**

ANNUAL FOOD FAIR & BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010 -- 1:00 P.M.

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall

1490 Markham Road (North of 401 - Entrance on Milner Avenue)

Free Admission

Fun & Activities for everyone

- ☺ Enjoy Guyanese & Caribbean Food
- ☺ Chat with Old and New Friends
- ☺ Assist Various Charities in Guyana
- ☺ Support our Silent Auction and Raffle



New Donors/Volunteers: Willing to bake, cook or donate items for this event, please call **Rahana Khan**
(416) 282-3110



Guyana's History You thought you knew

- Q. Which was the first South American country that the British built a railroad line?
- A. The first railroad on the South American continent was built in 1848 by the British in British Guiana (Guyana). It was 5 miles long, -- from Georgetown to Plaisance. The British later extended the line 60 miles and built another railroad west from Vreed-en-Hoop, on the other side of the Demerara River. A street railway began carrying passengers in Georgetown in 1877. The line was acquired by Georgetown Tramways Company in 1880 and used vehicles built by John Stephenson Company in New York.

YES! I WANT TO HELP

- \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other
- General Bernard Memorial Scholarship
- Marian Academy

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.
534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON MIC 2Z8

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
- My address has been changed

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: _____

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON MIC 2Z8
FRIENDS OF GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

- Yes, I wish to become a member of your organization
- Yes, I would like to **join the youth committee**
- Yes, I wish to assist with donation of items/supplies
- Yes, I would like to help with the:
 - Food Fair dance packing for shipments
 - transporting donated items

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
534 Rouge Hills Drive, Toronto, ON MIC 2Z8

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

email: stanandmarg@yahoo.com



