

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

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

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## CELEBRATING OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

As we reflect on the work of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. over the past twenty-five years, the members have always strived toward ensuring that our Mission has been met, ".....*Providing aid and assistance to Guyanese -- children, families, individuals and others in need*".

Since our formation, the organization has expanded, adapted and changed its endeavors in response to the many issues facing communities today. This has necessitated a more coordinated approach with organizations and individuals who are aiming to make a positive impact on their communities. GCC has supported various joint ventures with other organizations to assist persons in need with health and disastrous conditions. Assistance has also been given to Canadian students who volunteered their time to work in Guyana.

Many persons have mentioned that they have never heard of us in Guyana, but GCC does work collaboratively with various other nonprofit organizations; governmental agencies; and members of the public to attain certain objectives. GCC continues its wide ranging assistance to Guyana through the list of Charities we have on file in the following areas, all being run by different denominations:

- Orphanages
- Drop in centres for Street Children
- Seniors' Groups
- Prisons
- AIDS (assisting with medication)
- Homes -- all types in various parts of the country, i.e. Convalescent Homes, Shelter Homes, The Palms, etc.
- Hostels & Churches -- through support groups including St. Vincent de Paul Organizations
- Youths -- vocational Skills Training for Teens and Young Women
- Food -- through food supply/food hampers to families who cannot afford the necessities
- Literacy--through Schools, Libraries, Colleges and the University of Guyana
- Counselling Centre -- reintegrating a number of children into the regular school system and some with their families
- Canadian University students who volunteer their time in Guyana
- National Commission on Disabilities
- Missions
- Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre(Carmichael St.)
- Hospitals
- Outreach Programs in depressed communities

GCC is forever grateful to its members, volunteers, donors, and supporters (present and past) and those that we have lost in death, sickness or who now reside elsewhere. Their input, vision, inspiration, and teamwork have laid a sound foundation for the organization. We also look forward to new ideas, approaches and challenges from our current and future members, as their objectives will surely impact the future of the organization.

## 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*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2012-2013

#### OFFICERS

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Asst. Treasurer
Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Bruce Williams 416-740-9328	Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883	Derek Mahanger 905-831-0746

#### DIRECTORS

Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956	Michael Gonsalves 416-420-0565	Karen Heifa 416-287-2526	Rahana Khan 416-281-3398
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**HONORARY DIRECTOR**  
**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

**Desmond De Barros**  
**Joan De Barros** } 905-837-0135



**Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:**

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the celebration of our 25th Anniversary!

Hopefully you enjoyed some of our 'looking back' notes in the last newsletter. Someone suggested that we list our achievements over the past 25 years but ... I sincerely believe that every small action taken by Guyana Christian Charities has been an achievement – because each and every act has been done with the intention of helping others...especially the sick, the orphaned, and those in need of a variety of assistance back in our dear land of Guyana. Please be assured that we will continue to do our very best for as long as we can. With more new members and the continued support of everyone – we will succeed!

Our Fiscal Year runs from July to June. The past four (4) months have been very busy planning, packing, shipping, and scheduling our fund-raising events. Every member is assigned to Committees ...and yes... several members are on several committees. It is becoming harder and harder to find new ways to thank members, volunteers and supporters for their constant energy, strength and determination. As one works with the various committees, '**love of neighbour**' seems to transmit to and from each other. You could experience this remarkable feeling – by joining us in any area of our activities – whichever area you feel comfortable with. Further on in this newsletter you will see a form headed YES I WANT TO HELP. Please consider completing this form and sending it to us. We are looking forward to receiving LOTS of these over the next few weeks. Thanks in advance.

By the time you read this newsletter we would have held our Fall Dance and our Food & Bake Sale. As usual, we depend entirely on donations and volunteers to make these events successful.

The need for our assistance to our fellow Guyanese back home continues. During a recent family visit to Guyana by Anne Marie Reigber, she visited several of our Charities and was able to see first-hand where and how our donations are used. YES...the need continues! We have received several specific requests and will do our utmost to provide whatever we can.

Please make a special effort to read this entire newsletter. There are so many articles of interest including our Packing & Shipping Report which shows how very busy we have been over the past several months. Special thanks to '*the crews*' who made all this activity possible.

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement. God Bless you all!

Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth Abdool*  
President

The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.  
*John Ruskin*

## **A FOLLOW-UP WITH 'GOOD NEWS' ...not too often seen!**

Some of you may recall that in our October 2011 Newsletter – yes one year ago – there was an article with the headline ...

### **KARASABAI, NORTH RUPUNUNI ...CAN YOU HELP?**

Below is an extract from that article ...

*"The Sisters go from village to village and would really appreciate one or two LADIES bicycles. Do you have one which you do not use? If so – please let us know. We would be most happy to send it down to Karasabai."*

Well...our readers and supporters stepped up to the need and we are happy to share with you the following extract of a note from Sister Mary Peter Ngui, which is a thank you from the sisters in Karasabai:

*"I am very happy to tell you that I am riding the new bicycle and it is very good to ride anywhere and everywhere. Now I can climb the Tiger Pond Highway. It has become easy to move around in our mission areas. I have not enough words to express my gratitude. BUT I can only say A BIG THANK YOU."*

Below are two (2) photographs with notes:



In front of the convent.



Some of the road they have to go through – but we understand that others are better!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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](mailto: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.

## PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



Members and volunteers of the Guyana Christian Charities Canada. Inc. (GCC) have been very busy during the year 2012. Through the dedication and hard work of this group, and the generosity of our donors, GCC managed to **ship five (5) 40 ft. containers of valuable donations to Guyana. This is more than double our average annual shipment.**

The beneficiaries of these donations are individuals, groups and organizations across Guyana regardless of race, colour, creed and religious affiliations. The thank-you letters and photographs from the recipients are very moving and to a large extent remains the driving force for GCC to continue delivering its programs to the less fortunate in Guyana.

Many thanks to all our donors and supporters, whose contributions make our programs and delivery possible. Without your support at our fundraising events, GCC could not raise the money for the freight charges for our shipments.

Significant donations were received from a number of businesses and organizations during the year. **1320 pairs of Eye Glasses from Perfect Optical, 500 pairs of Rubber Boots/Shoes from Topnotch Employment Services, 300 Bed Toppers from Homemedics Group, 120 Boxes of Hand Sanitizers from Laura Line, 52 Pallets of Medical Supplies from Open Heart Mission and over 50 Pallets consisting of Foodstuff, School Supplies, Medical Supplies, Chairs and Tables, etc.** from an anonymous donor.

In addition, regular pickups and deliveries were made. These consisted of lots of **Clothing, Medical Equipment/Supplies, Kitchen Utensils, Toys, Books, Shoes, Bicycles, etc.** etc. from our supporters.

GCC would like to take the opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters for their contributions in the past, and look forward to their continued support. When everyone reaches out to help, there is a general good feeling that you may have brought some measure of happiness, no matter how small, to some less fortunate people. **Please continue making your donations. We can be reached by calling any of the following persons:**

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.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES....



Many people have asked us: 'What is the difference between a **Member, Volunteer, Donor and Supporter?**' We will try to answer this question:

- ✚ A Member is someone who is prepared to attend meetings, give input to various considerations, as well as assisting with the general work including: Packing items for shipment, Collecting donations for shipment, Selling Bar and Raffle tickets at our fund raising events, etc.
- ✚ A Volunteer is someone who prefers NOT to attend meetings but gives their time and talent to specific areas of need as listed above.
- ✚ A Donor is someone who provides articles which are needed for shipment **to Guyana, as well as items such as prizes and food donations which we require to complement our fundraising activities.**
- ✚ A Supporter is someone who attends our functions and without whom we would not be successful.

It is no surprise that many people fall into all these categories. Where do you fit it? **Please remember to check out the form towards the end of this newsletter ... YES I WANT TO HELP**

## SACRED HEART CHURCH



The rebuilding of the Sacred Heart is currently underway. (See picture below). The estimated cost of the project is \$85M (US\$420,000). Ongoing fundraising activities will continue to assist with the completion of this undertaking. A website, [www.sacredheart.gy](http://www.sacredheart.gy), has been established to inform persons around the world about the project.



The new church will have a similar façade to the old one and will be a bit smaller with one altar (as compared to three) in the middle of the church, so that the congregation could gather around. It will also have a chapel. The wooden Sacred Heart Church, destroyed by fire on December 25, 2004, was popularly referred to as the **'Gem of Main Street'** and had its origins in 1861, when a chapel designed by Fr. Schembri was opened on a Christmas Day on the Main Street site. It originally catered to the Portuguese, as Masses were all said in that language.



# WHY I CHOOSE TO SUPPORT GCC



Your members are helpful, active, interested, and ingenious – a wonderful advertisement for Christianity AND Guyana!

*Tony Carr*

*GCC Sponsored Lecturer for new Student Nurses at SJMH*

Over the past 25 years I have met very dedicated people from Guyana, -- some I already knew but many I came to know. They have shown by their commitment to helping others with their "Charity and Love", thereby fulfilling God's Commandment "Love one another as I have loved you." May God continue to bless Guyana Christian Charities and all those wonderful volunteers who have served and continue to serve those in need.

God bless!

*Gloria Wilson.*

"Our association with GCC has blessed us with many friends over the last 25+ years..."

*Camille & Rupert De Castro.*

Warmest congratulations to GCC on its 25th and deepest gratitude to the founders who, in spite of facing the many challenges of establishing a new life in Canada, committed themselves fully to giving back to the land of their birth. GCC has grown from strength to strength and may God bless all its selfless members.

*Pat Savory*

Networking Works! Each time I communicate with friends through e-mail, I include a short note telling them what items are "badly needed" for the various groups and institutions to which GCC sends donations. The first time I did this, I was overwhelmed by the response. Three friends brought donations to my house within a couple of weeks; others made a promise to send stuff as soon as possible. Since that time, I have done this twice. Many people clean house and send clothing etc. to various charities. Why not ours? Try networking with your friends and colleagues. Tell them about Guyana Christian Charities. You'd be amazed at the response you'll get...not to mention the donations!

*Rose (Deabreu) Mouncey*

In the two years I have learned what makes up GCC. Have appreciated the generosity and understanding received by every GCC member/volunteer/Director. All the volunteers who make up GCC have created a wonderful giving, caring machine well-oiled with love machine.

*Diane Christie*

"In year 2000 when I was contemplating retiring from the Ontario Government (OPS), I was looking for an organization that was involved in charitable activities for the people in Guyana. My last position in the OPS was CEO/Executive Director of the Office of the Employment Equity Commission. This position was extremely demanding, so in retirement I was looking for something that I could be involved in, but to a lesser extent, and which would allow me to be of service on my native country.

Over the past 12 years I have found that in GCC, the goals and objectives, and the programs of this organization fit me effectively to actualize my retirement objectives."

*Kumar Singh*

I spent 8 years plus in Guyana as CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Georgetown (2000 through 2008). Guyana Christian Charities was a "God send" all the time I was there. You blessed us with equipment and supplies, as well as expertise and funding. Your commitment to Guyana is outstanding. GCC funded special programs and needs and I know your help aided in expanding the services and care we were able to render our inpatients and outpatients, as well as our mobile clinic. We could not have accomplished what we did without you. Blessings on you all.

*Sister Sheila Walsh RSM*

## Wish List



## ITEMS NEEDED:

- ✦ Babies and children clothing
- ✦ School supplies
- ✦ Sheets
- ✦ Towels
- ✦ Pillow cases

Please ... NO WARM CLOTHING nor Computers



## Guyana's History You thought you knew

### How Georgetown became the Capital of Guyana?

Originally, the capital of the Demerara-Essequibo colony was located on Borselen Island in the Demerara River under the administration of the Dutch.

When the colony was captured by the British in 1781, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Kingston chose the mouth of the Demerara River for the establishment of a town which was situated between Plantations Werk-en-rust and Vlissengen. It was the French who developed this town and made it their capital city when they captured the colony in 1782. The French called the capital La Nouvelle Ville.

The town was restored to the Dutch in 1784 and renamed Stabroek after Nicolaas Geelvinck, Lord of Stabroek, and President of the Dutch West India Company. Eventually the town expanded and covered the estates of Vlissengen, La Bourgade and Eve Leary to the North, and Werk-en-rust and La Repentir to the South. Brickdam, the first paved road, was built by the French.

It was **renamed Georgetown on 29 April 1812 in honour of King George III**. Georgetown has expanded dramatically through the years and may be divided into three Geographical regions:

- (1) **Georgetown** -- referring to Central Georgetown includes the Business district as well as the seat of the national Government;
- (2) **Greater Georgetown** -- contains some of the most expensive and luxurious metropolitan neighborhoods; and
- (3) **South Georgetown** -- incorporates communities of neighborhoods along the eastern bank of the Demerara River.

## WITH SYMPATHY

Members would like to express their sympathy to the families of members, volunteers, donors, supporters of GCC, who have recently passed, and in particular **Noreen Gomes**.

**Eternal Rest Grant onto them O Lord.**

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

### Come Join us and Enjoy

**SATURDAY,  
February  
16, 2013  
at 7:30 p.m.**

**VALENTINE DINNER & DANCE**  
Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall  
1490 Markham Road  
(North of 401 – Entrance on Milner  
Avenue)  
**Music: BAND: Triple Play**  
**D.J.: Bakes**

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 4,  
2013  
at 7:30 p.m.**

**SPRING DANCE**  
Pickering Recreation Complex  
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --  
(Liverpool and Highway 2)  
**Music: Band: } T.B.A**  
**D.J.: }**

**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



**LOOK OUT FOR OUR...FALL DANCE 2013**

# Thanks

**Beacon Foundation** -- - '...thank you for your generous donation of charitable items for our patients, shut-ins, single parents, nursery and day care. Item donated include medical supplies, adult and children clothing, shoes, household items, wheel chairs, toiletries, sheets, pillow cases, children books, games, etc. We thank you for caring and sharing'.

**Missionaries of Charity -- New Amsterdam** -- - '...our sincere gratitude for sending all the items in the name of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. It was very helpful - everyone will get something. We have a soup kitchen - men and ladies - 50 to 60 daily. We also have a home for our Old People. We also have a Day Care. Our gratitude is our prayers for you'.

**Missionaries of Charity -- Houston** -- - '... the donation of money sent by the Fernandes' family in memory of the late Alice Fernandes was very much appreciated. We thank you also for the items you sent to us through shipping. May God bless you all.'

**St. Bernadette's Hostel** -- - '... This is to acknowledge receipt of and to thank you most sincerely for 9 boxes of clothing, books, jewelry and personal items. These were distributed to needy families in Georgetown and the Interior and Riverine areas of Guyana - and they were indeed grateful to have received them.'

**Mahaica Hospital** --- '...the money received was used to purchase food items for the patients. Thank you for your generous contribution. All God's blessings on each of you in Guyana Christian Charities for your continuing care, concern and support.'

**St. Vincent De Paul - Sacred Heart Conference** -- - '...on behalf of our brothers and sisters - please accept our sincere gratitude for the many boxes of used clothing and other useful items.'

## 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

## WILL 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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  
(June and October)**

**If you would like to advertise....**

**Please call**

**Bruce Williams**

**416-740-9328**

**Email: [bruce\\_williams@tjxcnada.ca](mailto:bruce_williams@tjxcnada.ca)**





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## 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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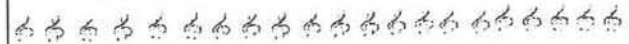
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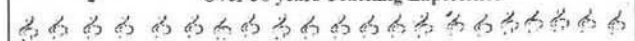
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