

GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

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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

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. presented Backpacks to the Katiwau Dance Group from Region 9 of Guyana. This group visited Canada to perform at the 2013 Guyana Independence Festival Cultural Show, which was held at Centennial College.

One of GCC's special focuses is on children and so far we have provided more than 500 backpacks to the less fortunate kids across Guyana in the past three years.



Rahana Khan one of the GCC's Directors (on the right) with the Dance Group

Thanks to our many donors who continued to support us with this project, by providing us with backpacks filled with school supplies.

Our hope is to ensure that every child is prepared to learn and succeed by providing free school supplies to students most in need. This allows these children to have the tools they need to begin their school year feeling equal to their peers.

We are inviting new donors to join the Backpack project. Sponsor a backpack for a child and put a smile on his/her face.

"Children are our most valuable resource."

Herbert Hoover, 31st U.S. president

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2013-2014

OFFICERS

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

Joe Castanheiro 416-286-1956	Stephen Choo-Wing 905-420-2789	Karen Heifa 416-287-2526	Rahana Khan 416-281-3398	Henry Tiam-Fook 416-497-4308
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HONORARY DIRECTOR
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Desmond De Barros
Joan De Barros

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters, Friends, Members and Volunteers:

Where does the time go to??? ...as it is said: 'time goes faster with age' ... oooooops!!!

This is my fifth year as President of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and THANK YOU always seems to be the words I first think of when preparing my message. On pondering why – I decided it is because it is the one way I can let you all know how we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support. It may appear to be 'the same --old...same-old words' but they come from the bottom of my heart.

Two of our Directors indicated that they were unable to return to the Board of Directors – *Mike Gonsalves* and *Bruce Williams*. Mike has been a Director since 2004 – this year would be 14 years. Mike has always been very active and supportive in all our endeavours ... especially our Fund Raising Activities. However, he has assured us of his continued participation as much as his health allows. Mike, thank you so very much for everything you have done for GCC. Bruce stepped up to the plate in 2011 when we really needed a Secretary. Bruce had a very demanding job and it took considerable effort on his part to take on the role of Secretary. The Directors certainly filled in for him as was necessary. Thanks so much Bruce.

We are fortunate to have replacement Directors already in place ... *Pansy Hsan* and *Henry Tiam-Fook* were elected at our Annual General Meeting in May. Pansy will be our new Secretary. Welcome on Board folks!

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of one of our very active members – *Theresa Gonsalves*. Theresa attended our monthly meetings on a regular basis and was always willing to get involved with all of our activities. We will certainly miss her. A short Memoriam appears later in this Newsletter.

So far 2014 has been the usual hectic pace --- we attend meetings, we plan, we collect donations, we pack, we ship, we organize dances, we bake and cook for our annual Food and Bake Sale --- and yes we laugh! Very often we look at each other and thank God for the sense of humour we are blessed with. This is no doubt what gives us the foresight and energy to carry on. We are extremely fortunate to have such a fantastic group of members – everyone doing their thing to the best of their ability. We can ask for nothing more.

I must mention that the support each and every one of you gives to GCC – financially as well as your participation -- is what enables us to continue to assist the less fortunate in Guyana. This may be a repeat but – all the Charities we donate to in Guyana constantly communicates with us as to how much our assistance means to them. Quite often we think that we should be doing more but are heartened when even the smallest bit of assistance seems to be so much appreciated. Our ongoing help, thanks to YOUR generosity, is reaching those who need it most. From time to time, when members and friends visit Guyana, we request that they stop by some of our charities to ensure that the need is still there. Believe me ... the need is still there!!!

As we carry on we realize that 'hands-on' help is needed more and more. There is so much to be done but we only have so many hands to do it all. Have you considered becoming active with our Organization? We need you. Do me a favour, please consider if you can possibly give us some of your time. There are so many ways in which you can help

– you know **what we do...**

- > we collect donations
- > we pack these items for our charities
- > we decorate the halls for our dances
- > we sell dance tickets
- > we bake and cook for our annual sale
- ...and the list goes on.

Can you help with any of the above? If so, please contact one of our Directors or Members. Your help would be most welcome.

We look forward to your continued support and generosity as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Abdool

President

PACKING AND SHIPPING UPDATE



On September 24, 2014, a 40-ft container was loaded by our volunteers for shipment to Guyana. This shipment will leave Port Halifax on October 2nd and is expected to arrive in Guyana on October 16th. This is GCC's second shipment for the year and the container was laden with Christmas supplies consigned to over 60 different organizations, institutions and charitable groups across Guyana. The cargo consisted of toys, games, school supplies, Christmas decorations, clothing and shoes for children (all ages) and women, medical supplies and equipment, bicycles, kitchen utensils, bed linens, towels and Christmas treats.

Special thanks to the number of persons and organizations that made significant donations to be distributed across the land to help make the Festive Season more enjoyable. Thirty shoe boxes packed with presents and treats donated by Allison Caldeira will certainly make the sick children at Mercy Hospital feel relatively better. As customary, Sister Lauren Harry and Wendy Grenada will be in Guyana to distribute a large number of items to the less fortunate during the Christmas Seasons.

Thanks to Ken Singh of Atlas Cargo for the huge donation of medical supplies to be utilized by the Health Sector. Our donor from Montreal continues to give generously to the program.

GCC is very fortunate to have supporters and volunteers who continue to make such a big contribution to our goals, objectives and its programs to assist such a wide range of people in Guyana. The various charities, organizations and people in Guyana continue to express their gratitude for your donations which make a significant difference to improve their lives.

Please continue to make your contributions to help the less fortunate. We can be reached by calling any of the following:-

Terry De Freitas	416-438-5992
Anne Marie Reigber	416-755-6958
Stephen Choo-Wing	905-420-2789
Kumar Singh	416-498-9962
Elizabeth Abdool	416-912-6814

GCC's INVOLVEMENT IN OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS OF DEPRESSED COMMUNITIES



As reported in our May 2008 Issue, GCC in collaboration with Living Instructions for Today (LIFT) has been reaching out to depressed communities in Guyana, such as *Tiger Bay, Saxacally, Buxton, Paradise/Bayroot, West Coast, Moca, Agricula, Albouystown, Guyana Prisons and the homeless in Georgetown.*

For the past thirteen (13) years GCC has been involved through one of its members, **Sister H, who started this Canadian-Guyana venture out of love to give back to the country she loves.** According to Sister H, the initiative just grew by leaps and bounds and eventually there was a need to collaborate with a church to facilitate a more effective outreach program.

The pictures below depict simply a fraction of the various areas that GCC supports Sister H in her labor of love.



Children with Sister H, caregivers and Director, Pastor Marva Williams at Ruimveldt Childrens' Home



Seniors at Byers Home enjoying their companionship



Celebrating a little one's birthday in the community



Crutches arrived, Gentle sends his thanks.

The Ruimveldt Children's Home is currently not funded by the Government of Guyana and would appreciate financial help.

Special Thanks to Wendy Grenada, one of our Guyana resident volunteers for sharing items she received from GCC in order to assist with Sister H's activities, since several of her items were destroyed by flood during the last floods. **In unity there is strength!**

To our Board—Members—Volunteers—Supporters (Present & Past)

Valuable is the work you do
Outstanding in how you always come through
Loyal, sincere, and full of good cheer
Untiring in your efforts throughout the year
Notable are the contributions you make
Trustworthy in every project you take
Eager to reach your every goal
Effective in the way you fulfill your role
Ready with a smile like a shining star
Special and wonderful -- that's what you are!!



John O'Connor

I would not be here at **St. Joseph Mercy Hospital** for my 11th teaching semester if it were not for all the support I receive from Guyana Christian Charities. You provided my donors with a charitable receipt, you helped me offset my expenses, and you arranged payment for the student tablets this year too. Those are concrete stuff; it is really the invisible contributions that give me energy to be here. What I know is true is the effort and time it takes to arrange these things. I also feel your support in your well-wishes, in emails and on Facebook even before I have arrived here. I am truly blessed.



I have nineteen (19) eager first year students this year and a co-tutor from Canada, Sylvia Wilvert. She will be with me for the whole 12 weeks. [www.revjoc.blogspot.com] Actually, she is doing some double duty for the Scarboro Fathers by mentoring two of their new volunteers. My college classmate, Dennis LeBlanc will join me again. I have some free volunteer times if you want to join us. Just write: revsx2@gmail.com

 <h1>Wish List</h1>	
Baby Feeding Chairs Back Packs Bath Chairs Bicycles Books Canned food Chairs Christmas Cards Christmas tree decorations and lights Clothing Craft and Sewing Supplies Crayons Depends DVD and CD Players Flashlights Games Mattresses	Medical Supplies Printers Sewing Machines Sheets Shoes Soap Strollers Suitcases Tables Tablecloths Toilet Seats Toothpaste Towels Toys Walkers Wheel chairs Wool
Unbreakable items only	

Special Note: Our email address has changed to gcccaninc@gmail.com

Interested in joining **Cooking/Baking Groups**

Meet Friends and have fun whilst trying out various recipes



Join some of our **seasoned** volunteers and turn your spare time into social good....and at the same time learn the skills of recipes of a special item/s you might want to do for family, friends or yourself.

Contact us by: Phone: **416-912-6814**
Email: **gcccanc@gmail.com**

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Theresa Gonsalves on July 14th. Theresa was a staunch member of G.C.C. from its inception in 1987. She headed the Pastry Stall for our annual Bake Sale, jointly with Norma Gouveia (decd.), for many years. Theresa was also one of the 4 GEES who catered for our annual Valentine Dance for several years (until 2008).

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. To her husband John, a long standing supporter of G.C.C., her children Suzanne, Johnny, David, Chris and her many grandchildren and great grandchildren, we offer our condolences and prayers. May she rest in peace.

WITH SYMPATHY

Eternal Rest Grant onto them O Lord



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

Georgina Abdool
Joseph Edward De Barros
Theresa Gonsalves
Bibi Mohamed
Thelma Rebeiro
Eleanor Searle
Gordon Thompson
Carl Xavier

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.

THANK YOU



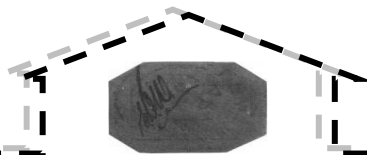
We pray here that God will continue to bless you and your organization with all that it takes to keep it afloat.
from **St. Ann's Orphanage Group** and **Sr. Leonie De Costa**

We the members of **St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church** hereby send you our heartfelt thanks and we are so much grateful for all the items we received. It clearly shows that God's Holy Spirit is very active in you. Although we are miles apart we feel the "Love" you have for the unfortunate and poor Brothers and Sisters. Please be assured that we include the Guyana Christian Charities Canada Inc. in our prayers so God can continue to shower his Blessings on the group for years to come.

.. Lemond James Adrian - on behalf of the **Church (Soesdyke, E.B.D.)**

Buxton-Bayroot Community received the boxes last Thursday. Thanks to Guyana Christian Charities. I delivered some of the stuff to Eve in Buxton. The people of Buxton and other communities on the East Coast of Demerara are forever grateful.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, children and volunteers of the **Ruimveldt Children's Home and Care Centre** we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Guyana Christian Charities for their timely and consistent contribution towards the home. May the Lord continue to prosper you guys in every way.



A British Guiana One-Cent Magenta postage stamp from 1856, the only one of its kind to still exist, sold for a record **\$9.5 million** at Sotheby's on Tuesday.

The hefty price, which includes the buyer's premium, makes the one-inch by one-and-a-quarter-inch stamp (2.5 cm by 3.2 cm) printed in black on magenta paper the most expensive stamp ever sold at auction, and the most valuable object by weight and size, according to the auction house.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015

Come Join us and Enjoy

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY
14, 2015
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 16,
2015
at 7:30 p.m.**

SPRING DANCE
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --
(Liverpool and Highway 2)
Music: Band: Fuh Fun

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: gcccaninc@gmail.com

How to Receive GCC'S Newsletters

If you are not already on our mailing/email lists, you could view and/or print our newsletter from our website <http://www.gcccanada.org>. You can also request to receive our newsletter via email instead of through the mail, by advising us through our email address gcccaninc@gmail.com or by telephone 416-912-6814. Thanks!

BE A STUDENT OR AN ADULT 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.



Guyana's History You thought you knew

- Q: When did the British officially acquire Guyana (British Guiana)?**
A: The colonies of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice were officially ceded to the United Kingdom in the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1814 and at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. In 1831 they were consolidated as British Guiana and Boundary lines of British Guiana in 1896.
- Q: When did Guyana achieve independence?**
A: Guyana achieved independence on May 26, 1966, and became the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on February 23, 1970 - the anniversary of the Cuffy slave rebellion - with a new constitution.

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/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

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 ☐ Dance ☐ Packing for shipments
☐ Transporting donated items

Name _____

Address _____

CALL US TO ADVERTISE

We publish two newsletters each year
(February and October)

If you would like to advertise....

Price: \$100/for two issues

Please call: **Dexter Gonsalves**
416-912-6814

Email: dextera@bellnet.ca





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B: 416-284-5655

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.

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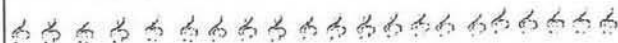
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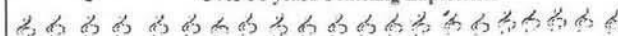
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