# October 2015

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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

# The Beacon Foundation

Wendy Granada -- Supervisor of Nurses & Outreach Programs

Beacon Foundation is a Charitable Organization that does a lot of humanitarian work, such as a mobile service offering palliative care to surviving cancer patients in their homes. Care is offered to patients in East and West Coast Berbice, East and West Bank Essequibo, Georgetown and Greater Georgetown, East/West Bank Demerara, East Coast Demerara, Soesdyke and Linden Highway and Wismar.

The nurses have a monthly schedule, which takes them daily into the homes of the patients in all the Regions. *They check vital signs, issue medication, vitamins and morphine (as needed) to the patients. Care can also include ointment and dressings for open wounds due to the cancer situation, provision of pampers (which is always needed).* Unless otherwise specified by patient, patients' relatives are encouraged to take a hands-on approach in the care process as well. Patients who are ambulatory visit the office to pick up their medications and have their vital signs taken. Patients who are unable to provide the basics for themselves including groceries, clothing, household supplies, personal care items, etc. are also assisted with these, through the kind contribution from donors and Food for the Poor. There are no charges to patients for beacon's services -- all medications and care treatment are free.

It is managed by five (5) Directors: - *Patrick DeGroot* (President) *Vic Oditt* (Vice President/Secretary) *Clairmont Lye* (Director) *Dr. Rohan Jabour* (Medical Director) *Doreen de Cairies* (Director).

Other Initiatives include supervision of "Feeding Programs" to four (4) Schools or 400 children. Through the assistance of donors seven (7) families are also supplied with groceries (supervised by Beacon). Beacon Nurses also offer counseling to family members of patients and supply them with medication when the Health Centers are short of supplies. This service along with medications are offered free of charge. Beacon is so grateful for the assistance received from Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc., which was used, in the care of patients and beneficiaries.

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President	Vice Pres	ident So	ecretary	Treasurer Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883
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Joe Castanheiro	Stephen Choo-Wing	Karen Heifa	Rahana Khan	Henry Tiam-Foo
416-286-1956	905-420-2789	416-287-2526	416-281-3398	416-497-4308

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to our readers:

Well ... 2015 is just flying by!!! As we continue to assist the orphans, the sick, the aged and the needy in Guyana ... we realize more and more that we can **NEVER** do what we do without the ongoing assistance of so many kind people. Thank you so very much for <u>your</u> kindness and support. God will bless you all.

Many people have told us that we don't have to keep saying THANK YOU in our newsletters but ... forgive us --- it is the one way we can truly let everyone know how much we appreciate what you all do. Actually, we tend to think that way especially when we get 'thank you notes' from our various charities but ... they just want to let us know that our assistance is helping them and we think it is good to pass on their appreciation, as you will see in some of their 'thank you notes' later in this newsletter. Receiving these notes from them also gives us the extra energy and desire needed to keep GCC going!

We have added a new charity to our list – Guyana Women's Mining Organization (GWMO). This is a new organization formed through the assistance of the Mercy Sisters in Guyana. You will be introduced to this new charity in more detail later in this newsletter.

Our Fall Dance was once again a success. Initially the sale of tickets was so slow – it made us very concerned. However, as usual our supporters "stepped up to the plate" and we had a fantastic turn out. The entertainment with music from the band 'Triple Play' and DJ 'Dynamic Sounds' was amazing! The floor was always packed! It was heartening to receive such positive feedback on this event!

This year is the first time we are holding the Food & Bake Sale at the Pickering Recreation Centre. We did our best to advise our supporters of this change through the media as well as via the strongest way we know how ... word of mouth! At the time of writing, we are all hoping and praying that we will continue to receive the support we have received in the past. We will certainly report on the outcome in our next newsletter.

In closing - - my usual THANK YOU to each and every one of our members, volunteers, supporters and friends. Again – we cannot do it without you. We look forward to your continued participation and co-operation. Don't forget – if you are not yet involved in GCC and would like to be a part of this group – please contact us ... your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Elízabeth Abdool

President



On September 16, 2015, the cargo vessel MV Zim Virginia arrived in Georgetown to discharge its contents for Guyana. Included in the cargo was a 40 ft. container laden with 814 loose pieces of items for 65 various charities and organizations across the country. This was the second shipment donated by Guyana Christian Charities (GCC) for year 2015. The donations included lightly used clothing, shoes, toys, kitchen utensils, school supplies, outdoor children's play structures, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bicycles, eye glasses, and large quantities of various medical supplies, food items, Christmas decorations and books. These items will be distributed in time for the Christmas Season and would certainly contribute to putting a smile on the faces of so many children and the less fortunate across Guyana.

Special thanks to all those who donate on an ongoing basis, as this enables GCC to accomplish its mandate to assist our fellow Guyanese. Thanks also to our generous supporters, our volunteers and members, very much appreciated. Also special thanks to John Fernandes Ltd., Food For The Poor and their staff in Guyana for all the help and co-operation given, so that we can accomplish our charitable goals.

This is our last shipment for the current year and we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous, Healthy and Happy 2016.

We have already started to collect, sort out and pack items for our next shipment in 2016. In this regard, we seek your continued contribution of items and your support to our future fund-raising events. We can be reached by calling any of the following members:

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





Over the past decade Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. has been holding an Annual Bake and Food Fair, to benefit various worthy causes in Guyana.

Each year, friends and their families pitched in to assist in this worthy event, as dozens of volunteers donate their mouth-watering goods ... and the result shows....the yearly event is extremely popular and successful.

On the whole, this event is fun for the whole family. Not only can visitors sample a variety of sweet and savory treats, such as Guyana Black cake, local ice creams; a variety of Guyanese cuisine, but they can also sip cups of tea, mauby and ginger beer, etc.

Huge thanks to everyone who assist and support this benevolent cause.

Volunteers who are interested in assisting with baking and cooking or acquiring skills and recipes of special items and working along with a team for this event can always contact **Rahana Khan** – 416-540-5255.

# 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:

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# St. Joseph Mercy Hospital -- Guyana



The Hospital celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 1, 2015 and in a recent press report, the CEO of the Hospital stated that the institution has made tremendous strides over the years, overcoming many challenges, including the fire in 2010. It has now become an even better health service provider. The Hospital, with its 24-hour services, boasts a highly specialized team of doctors, nurses, therapists and caregivers, making it second to none in health care in Guyana.

Mercy Hospital is now the only institution in Guyana to offer 24hour Radiology Imaging Services with an on-site radiologist living on the premises on Parade St. This allows for CT Scans, MRIs, Ultra Sounds and related tests to be done on a 24-hour basis.

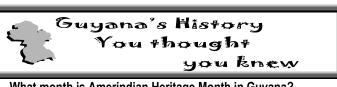
**Funds raised by GCC and the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Recovery Committee** here in Toronto have contributed significantly to the acquisition of up-to-date medical equipment, and we can be justifiably proud of our contributions.

A recent communication from the Chairman of the Board of the Hospital confirmed that they are making excellent progress with their Hospital improvement project, and thanked us for our support.

**One of their new projects is the establishment of an elderly care facility for 36 persons.** It will not be a new building. To reduce the cost, they will be refurbishing and extending an existing building on Pere St., Kitty, owned by the Sisters of Mercy at an estimated cost of U.S. \$250,000.00.

After a sabbatical last year, the Toronto Recovery Committee will be staging a Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Pickering Recreation Complex..... Get your tickets early.

We thank you for your ongoing support.



Q: What month is Amerindian Heritage Month in Guyana?

- A: September. The first such month was observed in 1995 and is intended to showcase and promote Amerindian culture and contributions as Guyanese.
- Q: What does the name Kabakaburi mean?
- A: It is Arawak for "the place with the itching bush". The bush referred to was a wild lily that gave off itchy milk. The Arawak name for the lily was "Jotoro" (diefenbachia paludicola), and the place where it grew "kabo kabura."over time, this became Kabakaburi.
- Q: What is the Mari-Mari dance?
- A: Mari-Mari is a traditional Arawak (Amerindian) dance. A man taking part in this dance may have two female partners.

# The GUYANA WOMEN'S Miners Organization (GWMO)



Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. is and will continue to support "The Guyana Women's Miners Organization" (GWMO), founded in 2012 by Simona Broomes. Ms. Broomes saw the plight of very young girls who were captured and forced into "sexual and domestic slavery" to the miners.

With the help of the Mercy Sisters (Sister Judith -- leader), and the benevolence of some fellow Guyanese, Simona was able to set up a home for the survivors of TIP (Trafficking in People).

GCC has sent financial aid to help them achieve their goal. As well, several boxes of items needed to assist them in getting the "Safe House" ready and operational for the arrival of the first group of escapees. Sister Judith and the other organizers of this program are deeply grateful for this assistance.

Ms. Broomes was recognized by John Kerry- US Secretary of State in 2013 for her efforts and bravery in her fight against human trafficking in Guyana.

Members of GCC are happy to be supportive of this worthy cause and sincerely wish them every success in their endeavors. May God be with them as they "soldier their fight" to rescue and protect victims of this global scourge.



Volunteers are special people who make important things happen. Congratulations and a heartfelt "Thank You" to our team of supporters and volunteers who diligently work to enrich the lives of others.

"People who volunteer tend to have higher self-esteem, psychological well-being, and happiness," Whatever the motive, volunteering improves the health, happiness, confidence and in most cases, it makes a positive impact on the community as a whole. Youths who volunteer are more likely to grow up to be adults who will volunteer. Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, and boost your social skills.

....BE A PART OF GCC'S VOLUNTEERS! ... STUDENT OR ADULT...

New Volunteers are welcome! There is always a need for more volunteers in various areas. There are many opportunities for all age groups, including youth/students. As a Volunteer, you will enjoy the fulfillment of giving to your community, help infuse new ideas and solutions to existing activities and make a difference in the lives of many. Please call... Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814... for further information.

## PLEASE HELP US OUT WITH YOUR DONATIONS!!!

Last year, GCC inserted letters in the boxes that were being shipped, asking for responses/feedback on the items sent to the various organizations. We were very pleased with the number of responses received. Not only do these responses give us information about their current & future needs, but it also confirms that the items sent were received safely, and were useful and appreciated. The following is a list of current requests.

Clothing & footwear: men's, women's, children's (esp. boys and babies);

Linens: sheets (dbl, qu & single), pillow cases, towels, tablecloths & kitchen towels;

Cutlery: (stainless steel - knives, forks, spoons - do not have to match);

Cooking utensils: pots, pans, baking dishes (especially large sizes);

Plastic plates, dishes, trays & storage containers;

Hygiene items: body creams, shampoo, soaps (incl. travel sizes) & plastic covered soap dishes;

Medical supplies: wheelchairs, walkers, canes, braces);

Diapers: Adult & children's;

School supplies (especially scientific or simple calculators);

**Used Christmas items**: trees, ornaments, garlands, or tree decorations (any colour); **Craft/sewing odds & ends** – knitting needles, threads, ribbons etc.;

Party Supplies - Paper serviettes, balloons, streamers, candles, loot bags;

Unused Xmas cards, all-occasion cards, blank note-cards and stickers; Children's toys, games & books (in good condition)

Please note that for any of the above items, partial packages are welcome!! Please <u>do not donate</u> the following: warm clothing, glassware & china, extra large or heavy items, ornaments, fancy footwear & formal dresses.



*Pat Pierre:* 1.......thank you for the useful articles that you so kindly sent for the Interior patients that I visit at the Public Hospital. I do know that a lot of time and dedication goes into collecting and packing, and on behalf of all those who receive the items I say "Thank you" all, in helping me to give cheer and comfort to our brothers and sisters from those remote parts of our beautiful Guyana. Once again many thanks. God Bless you and your team for all they do. *Sr Noel.* Just received your kind letter with very generous cheque ......enclosed for our Mercy Boys' Home. Please assure all at Guyana Christian Charities of our never-ending gratitude to each of you for your kind remembrance of us again and again. We are able to keep our Boys' Home going well because of the generous support of people like you. May the good Lord shower each of you with His blessings of Peace, Joy and Good Health. Love & prayers and more thanks.

Joyce Anthon. I have recently been elected President of the Ascension S.S.V.P. I have taken over from the past president...... On behalf of the Society I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the items received. I .......that we are in the process of buying school uniform (with the last cheque you sent) for the less fortunate children. ......I take this opportunity to let you know that we have our annual Children's Christmas Party in December, where we cater for about 125 children. If it is possible maybe you can assist us with some toys and sweets. I look forward to working with you and your continued support.

**Mothers' Union - Christian care for families:** "My dear Friends: This is a note of sincere thanks to your body for the shipment of fourteen (14) boxes of items for our Day Care Centres. We thank you very much and hasten to assure you that your gifts as always are very welcome and certainly enhances our work at the Day Care. Thank you very much and God bless."

Mercy Wings Vocational and Day Care Centre: We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, members of your organization and your family for your donation towards our Centre. May God continue to bless you your family and members of your organization, with peace and love."

T. Teixeira, Palms Institution: On behalf of the Administrator, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations to the Institution over the years. ...., the items in the boxes were useful and suitable, we are very grateful for whatever you can bless our residents with. Please be informed that Ms. Samantha Douglas has been assigned as the Administrator of the Palms Institution. Thank you once again and may GOD continue to bless you.
Rev. Raymond Coxall: I received 10 boxes of assorted materials at the end of June and I was on vacation in July. As usual, I wish to sincerely thank you and the hard working team at Guyana Christian Charities for the splendid effort that is made in trying to enrich the lives of the people in my parish. May God continue to bless you all.

Jacqueline Thomas -- Saxacalli Presbyterian Church and Three Miles Secondary School Dormitory. On behalf of ....... I wish to extend heartfelt gratitude for your timely donation of table cloths, clothing, books, cutlery, aprons, bed sheets, pillows, foot wear,bags, materials for craft, and candies among other things. These items were distributed among both recipients and each person has expressed gratitude for your thoughtfulness. We pray that God will continue to use you to bring relief and joy to the hearts of so many that you reach out to in Guyana as a whole. May God richly bless you and cause you to be successful in all of your endeavors. Once again, thank you.



Grateful thank you from a **young mother resident of D'Urban Backlands** (our new community) who has twins. She is extremely happy for the carriage. Don't see many of those carriages in Guyana.



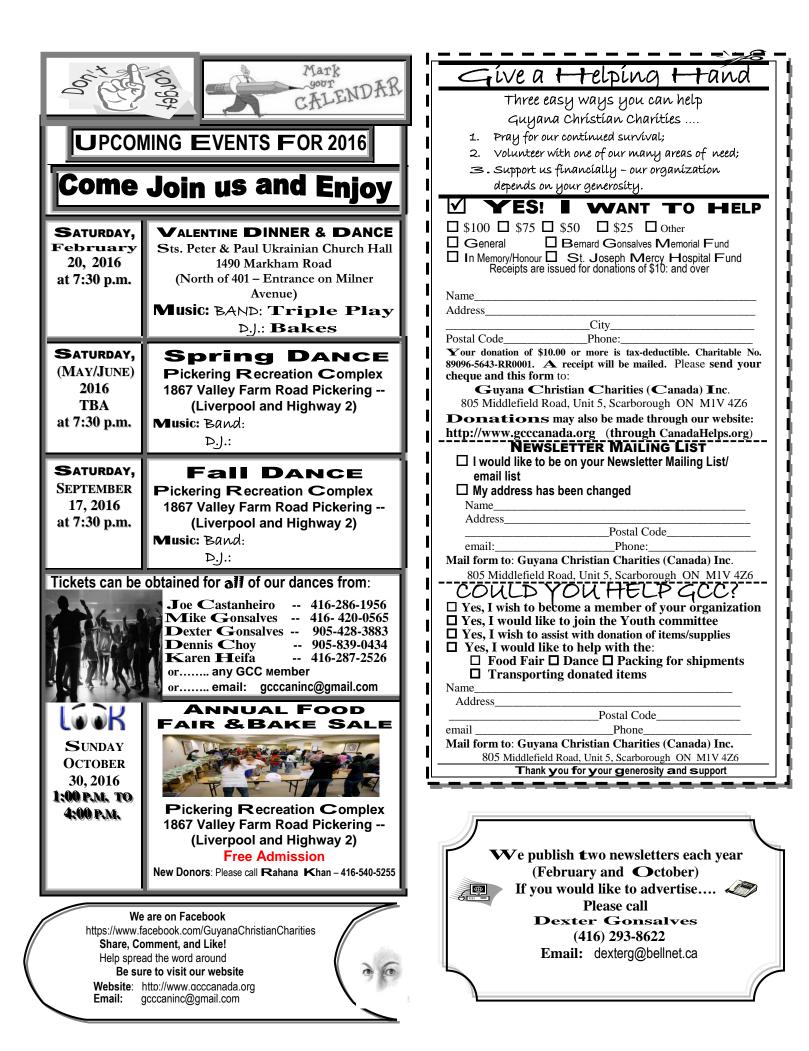
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Members would like to express their sympathy to the families of members, volunteers, donors, and supporters of GCC, who have recently passed, and in particular:

Francis Joseph Arokium Olive Bacchus Stephen Camacho Percy Chin-a-Loy Craig Gonsalves Hugh McGregor Reid Pat Savory Marjorie Shaw David Valladares

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.





GCC has recently lost a wonderful member, kind and longtime supporter with the death of Patrick Savory. Patrick joined GCC during the '70's and assisted in various projects. Although he was not actively involved over the past few years, his support of all of our events and endeavors never stopped. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Sheila and family during this time of sorrow. May he rest in peace.



Our newly opened facility has the largest chapel in the GTA and a beautiful new Lounge/Reception area.

1.1.1.







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