

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, ON M1V 4Z6 -- Tel. No. 416-293-8622

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuyanaChristianCharities>

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## Our Special Edition during... The Coronavirus Pandemic

...May 2020 Spring Dance ... cancelled  
 ...September 2020 Fall Dance ... cancelled  
 ...October 2020 bake sale ... cancelled

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. had no choice but to join the world and do our part to control the spread of COVID-19. This has been an experience for each and every one of us ... an experience we will not forget ... one that will go down in history.

**BUT** Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. has continued to do whatever we can to assist as many Charity Groups in Guyana as we can. **AND** we are appealing to every member and supporter to continue to assist us in every way possible.

In August we were able to pack and ship a 40-foot container --- yes...obeying all the rules:

- wearing masks
- washing hands
- keeping distance

**YES**...we continued to receive lots of donated items from very many people. In particular we were fortunate to receive a large amount of hospital beds from a Nursing Home in Hamilton for which we are most grateful. This particular donation took lots of time and man-power. We are blessed with willing volunteers and in addition to just saying 'THANK YOU' to these folks -- we pray and ask God to bless and protect them where they need it most.

### COVID-19 ... HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP US ...

We need to raise funds to offset in a little way what we could not get due to our three (3) Fund-raising activities which had to be cancelled.

One of our members came up with a fund-raising idea which, hopefully, many of you will be able to participate in.

Contd..on Page 2

## 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 (2019 – 2020)

#### OFFICERS

<b>President</b> Dexter Gonsalves 416-293-8622	<b>Vice President</b> Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	<b>Secretary</b> Jackie Amres 905-428-9030	<b>Treasurer</b> Richard Gomes 416-801-3918
<b>DIRECTORS</b>			
Elizabeth Abdool 416-912-6814	Joe Castanheiro 905-421-1404	Stephen Choo-Wing 905-420-2789	Winston Gittens 416-771-2064
Anne Marie Reigber 416-755-6958			

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Our Special Edition during THE Coronavirus Pandemic

(contd. from page 1)

### Sincere greetings to all of our readers!

First of all I hope that you and your loved ones are all staying safe during this challenging time. No one could have predicted that 2020 would become such a challenging year for everyone and I can imagine the stories we will have for the generations ahead of us. We have all been affected in one way or other I'm sure. Some of us are unable to hold our loved ones, some have had to cancel trips and some of us may have had loss of income to name a few. Regardless, we are all in this together.

Unfortunately, Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) had to cancel its Spring dance, Fall dance and the Bake Sale which we would have been busy preparing for right at this present time. We were fortunate enough to have the 2020 Valentine Dance last February before the pandemic hit.

We will be making a decision about the 2021 Valentine dance at the end of the year, as it is still too early to predict what the conditions would be. These fundraisers take a lot of hard work and planning and I would like to acknowledge all of the volunteers, members and patrons who make these events successful every year. We are eternally grateful for each and every one of you. We are looking forward to planning our events for the next year very soon so we can continue to do our part to help the poor and needy in Guyana and elsewhere.

I would also like to thank our various contributors who continue to show their support in 2020 despite the pandemic. The impact of our current events cannot be overstated. Your kindness has not gone unnoticed and made up for much needed donations.

I would also like to send a special "thank you" to our packing team. We recently shipped a 40-foot container to Guyana with wheelchairs, beds, clothing, household goods and many other items too numerous to mention. This team worked tirelessly to get all of these items picked up from donors all over. The items had to be loaded and unloaded, sorted and packed. They have had to work with masks and maintain social distancing. As you could imagine it is quite challenging. We are eternally grateful for these wonderful folks who make up the packing team.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your continued support to GCC and to wish you and your families all the best of health and happiness. Let's all do our part to help contain this pandemic.

Sincerely,  
*Dexter Gonsalves*  
President

➤ If possible, could you make a special donation of \$100.00 -- (or whatever you can manage). This could be done in two (2) ways:

- i) Go to our website: <http://www.gcccanada.org> – follow DONATE and you will be guided accordingly. **This is made possible through Canada Helps.** A service charge of 4% of your donation is retained by Canada Helps. The other 96% comes directly to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. You will receive a receipt for Income Tax purposes from Canada Helps; or
- ii) We certainly continue to accept CHEQUES which can be made payable to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. and sent to: **805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, ON M1V 4Z6.** If you choose this option it would assist us very much if you could give us an email address in order that your receipt for Income Tax purposes could be sent via email.

.....Whichever method is most convenient for you is fine by us. **We sincerely appreciate your continued support and generosity.**

**NOW as a THANK YOU for your support,** we have obtained several GIFTS – really fabulous gifts – which will be awarded by random draw to those who participate in this special fund-raising activity. The names of ALL donors as of Monday, November 30, 2020 will be put into a basket and names will be drawn on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. All winners will be notified no later than Friday, December 11 (in time for Christmas!!). A list of all winners will be provided in our next Newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation. God bless you all.



**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are changes ... but for how long ... ?**

GCC, like most organizations in the charitable sector, had to curtail in-person events and shipments, causing changes in its services to essential community services.

This year, changes will be made to our usual Christmas "cheer" and "hope" to a variety of underprivileged, handicapped, homeless and the poor (children and adults) in various sectors of Guyana. This is partly due to Sister H being unable to travel and her team of volunteers will be restricted to gather in groups.

In the meantime, GCC will continue to examine and devise "ways and means" as to how it can best maintain and respond to the needs of many vulnerable people and communities.



**Together we make a difference**

A team is more than a collection of people. It is a process of give and take.  
Barbara Glacel & Emile Robert Jr.

"Every good act is charity. A man's true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows.

Moliere

# PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



**Kumar Singh**

The Covid-19 epidemic adversely affected Guyana Christian Charities Inc. (GCC) fund raising and packing and shipping activities in 2020. Our volunteers, the majority being seniors had to be extremely careful not to be exposed to this deadly virus and had to take all the necessary precautions to prevent this illness. However, GCC was still able to pack and ship one (1) 40 ft. container to Guyana.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Zim vessel Taipei Trader arrived in Guyana with this container for distribution to over 59 organizations across Guyana. The container had 822 packages with men's, women's, and children's clothing, a lawn mower, hospital beds, books, shoes, toys, food items, wheelchairs, walkers, medical supplies, computers and accessories, toiletries, bicycles and a variety of school supplies. This container will be cleared, sorted and released to all the persons and organizations before the Christmas season and will be able to put a smile to so many.

Thanks to all the donors who continued to be so generous in their efforts to assist so many deserving Guyanese. Many of our volunteers collected the donations, took them home, sorted and packed the boxes at home to avoid the Corona virus.

GCC fund-raising activities, e.g. the Spring and Fall Dances, the popular Food and Bake Sales were cancelled because of the virus epidemic. Notwithstanding this difficulty, GCC was still able to ship this container to help so many across Guyana.

Thanks to all who made this possible.

If you have items to donate to improve the lives of so many less fortunate people in Guyana, please call one of the persons, listed below, to arrange for a pickup.

<b>Anne Marie Reigber</b>	<b>416-755-6958</b>
<b>Stephen Choo-Wing</b>	<b>905-420-2789</b>
<b>Dexter Gonsalves</b>	<b>416-293-8622</b>
<b>Kumar Singh</b>	<b>416-498-9962</b>

**KEEP SAFE, BEST WISHES, and HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR 2020.**

## Berbice National Psychiatric Hospital

As a follow-up to further improve the recreational facilities for the inmates of the Berbice National Psychiatric Hospital, the GCC-Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund purchased a drivable lawn mower to be used in their cricket ground. This was sent in the last shipment as well as medical supplies, some games and books, along with various items as requested. Most planned actions have been restricted due to the Coronavirus.

# Congratulations! 75th Year of Service



Commemorative Monument

The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJM) held a special dedication ceremony and Mass on September 21 of this year, commemorating its 75th anniversary and to recognize the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy for their phenomenal contribution to the hospital and healthcare.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy order in Guyana and their deep spiritual unconditional love and dedication, with which they served the hospital and the Guyanese community in general.

A Commemorative Monument was dedicated to the Sisters of Mercy which is now positioned in the eastern end of the newly-established 'Serenity Gardens' at SJMH. It was deliberately placed there to mark the position of the rising sun and to give hope and enlightenment for each new day.

The mass was celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, Bishop of Georgetown, who was assisted by Monsignor Terrence Montrose of the Diocese of Georgetown.

**Mercy Resident  
Care**



The children from the Diamond Parish Children's Choir recently sang at Mercy Resident Care, entertaining the residents. During Lent the choir makes a special effort to reach out to the less fortunate.



Mercy Resident Care centre was opened in 2016 and now home to thirty-three (33) elderly persons. It is a facility run by the St Joseph's Mercy Hospital which is designed for the elderly who can no longer live alone or care for their own personal needs, such as dressing, bathing, personal care, cooking and housekeeping. The facility also caters to those who have chronic medical needs requiring daily attention by a registered nurse.

"When you focus on being the best person you can be, you draw the best possible life, love, and opportunities to you."  
— Germany Kent

# Guyana's First Skull Replacement Surgery



Guyana's first skull replacement surgery (replacing 40% of a young woman's skull), a first of its kind to be conducted in Guyana, was successfully performed by prominent **Guyanese neurosurgeon, Dr. Amarnauth Dukhi**, at the **St Joseph Mercy Hospital**.

At the age of 10 years, Analisa Latchman of Lima Sands, Essequibo, developed a deformity on her left side face, which grew bigger over the years. Approximately six months ago she began experiencing severe headaches which subsequently led to the loss of consciousness.

In early July 2020, her family took her to see neurosurgeon, Dr Amarnauth Dukhi who made the diagnosis of a rare genetic bone disease—Craniofacial Fibrous Dysplasia—that afflicts one to five persons out of every 15,000 to 30,000 people. This is a craniofacial fibrous dysplasia, a bone disease of the face and skull that replaces normal bone with fibrous-type tissue.

On August 22, Dr. Dukhi performed the delicate operation on twenty-four year old Analisa, bypassing critical nerves in a six-hour surgery amicably assisted by the surgeon Dr. Anna Singh and with the help of a largely female medical team. The skull implant was procured from KLS Martin, a medical equipment supplier company in the United States.

The cost of the skull implant was US\$11,000 and was made possible after numerous donations to her GoFundMe page. The hospital charges are being taken care of by prominent Guyanese businessman, Chris Fernandes and the surgical process was done free of cost by Dr Dukhi.

Dr. Dukhi highlighted that there were no complications during the six hour long intricate surgery and that it was uneventful and successful. **This was a first world surgical procedure that was done in a third world developing country and the first time that someone with this disease was diagnosed and treated in Guyana.** Four days after the procedure, Analisa is already walking and talking and is no longer having headaches. It is expected that Analisa will lead a long and normal life.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Mrs. Deborah Ramsay said the institution's administration is pleased with the partnership they have developed with Dr. Dukhi and his clinic, Neurospine Services Inc.

She said the administration looks forward to more surgeries of its kind, including the possibility of Open Awake Surgery for the brain. *"We are moving into an area of service coming from Dr. Dukhi in this hospital in a very a 21st century way... I am so happy people don't have to travel anymore to do this type of surgery that would cost them five times the amount that it would cost in Guyana. We are very pleased with the partnership."*

# Ambulance Service



By Mr. Terry Mohamed  
Associate Administrator Clinical

The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital proudly presents another essential service to boost the Quality of care delivered in Guyana. Their Ambulance Service is a collaborative effort that includes AOMS (Atlantic Offshore Medical Services) a Canadian Base Company and Eureka Laboratory of Guyana.

Our Motto at all times is to serve all regardless of race, religion, gender or status, we believe that in order to help preserve life we must be able to initiate the process at the very beginning and be able to get our clients promptly to the necessary care needed.

The Ambulance is well equipped with all lifesaving equipment, medications and medical personnel. These include Doctors trained staff nurses, midwife and ambulance drivers who are certified in

1. Basic Life Support
2. Advance Cardiac Life Support
3. Emergency First Aid Support

As calls come into our Institution through the Emergency Room telephone **#226-1592, 223-5447, 620-8378** and **#624-8378**, emergency personnel are briefed and dispatched to location of clients in need of assistance and like clockwork the ambulance is swiftly off on its way.

The staff on arrival at the scene with Personal Protective Equipment on and after making sure the scene is safe a quick assessment history and vital signs check are done and immediately information is related to the emergency room doctors as to status of client.

Administering of necessary emergency care such as oxygen therapy, stabilization of Fractures, Immobilization of Spinal Injuries compression of bleeding sites, reassuring and gaining the clients confidence are all part of our holistic care given at all times.

Transport to the Medical Institution is done in a quick and safe Manner and at all times our medical staff is keep updated of the clients' status. On arrival at the emergency room there is a smooth transfer of patients to the waiting triage nurse and attending physician.

Our services also include transport of clients' post-surgical procedures and visits to other Institution for added medical care. May God bless us all as we continue to do his will and keep us safe.

"Faith is unseen but felt, faith is strength when we feel we have none, faith is hope when all seems lost."

– Catherine Pulsifer

# GCC Helps Distressed Person



**By Helping**

Tarah Persaud, from the Essequibo Coast in Guyana was visiting her daughter Ramratty Boodoosingh in Etobicoke, Toronto, Canada.

On Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Tarah felt dizzy, collapsed and fell in her daughter's residence. She was rushed to the Etobicoke General Hospital and was diagnosed with intracerebral hemorrhage (bleeding in the brain) due to a stroke. **“This case has happened many times before and has caused undue financial hardships. It is important that visitors travelling to relatives in Canada should consider buying adequate Medical Insurance Coverage (especially if they have a pre-existing medical condition) before travelling. Insurance can be obtained at the time of purchasing your Travel ticket, which can be done in Canada or the country of origin”**

Ramratty agreed to let the doctors perform urgent surgery to save her Mom. The bill from the hospital is for \$46,000+ Cdn. Ramratty and her Mom do not have the resources to meet this huge amount. She contacted the Guyana Christian Charities Inc. (GCC) to seek assistance. GCC loaned her a Hospital Bed and a wheelchair while she recuperated at her daughter's residence. In addition, GCC contributed \$2,000, and the GCC-Bernard Memorial Fund another \$1,000 towards the hospital bill. Other donations have also been received from supportive Guyanese community.

Ramratty is facing insolvency for the balance of this Invoice. She is seeking assistance from fellow Guyanese and friends to save her from disaster. **GCC has offered to issue Tax Receipts for donations towards this cause for amounts of \$20. and above, and will make payments directly to the Etobicoke General Hospital.** Please make cheques payable to Guyana Christian Charities Inc. and mail to:

**805 Middlefield Rd., Unit #5, Scarborough, Ontario, M1V 4Z6.**

**For further information, please call:**

**Kumar Singh, Vice President (GCC)**

**at 416-498-9962.**

<b>Q:</b>	When was British Guiana formed?
<b>A:</b>	1831
<b>Q:</b>	When did Guyana become independent?
<b>A:</b>	26 May 1966, after over 150 years of British rule. Guyana is part of the Commonwealth of Nations.
<b>Q:</b>	Who was Guyana's president in 1992-1997?
<b>A:</b>	Cheddi Jagan
<b>Q:</b>	When did Guyana become a republic?
<b>A:</b>	23 February 1970
<b>Q:</b>	When did Berbice have a significant settlement of Jews?
<b>A:</b>	In 1639, a number of Jews, fleeing religious persecution in Brazil, settled in what was then the Dutch colony of Berbice. They later moved to Suriname.

## Wish list

*We are in need of your assistance:*

Bats & balls, footballs, Rackets & balls	Footwear
Board games - Monopoly, cards, Dominoes, other games	Gardening Tools
Clothing -- children, teenagers (boys and girls) & adults	Hair - Dryer & Cutting Machines
Pampers and/or Depends	Knitting thread - assorted colors
Colored sheets	School supplies
Crutches, wheel chairs, bikes	Permanent Markers
Embroidery thread (red, pink, yellow, green, blue, black, brown, mauve)	Mattresses & Sleeping bags
Fabric & oil paint (red, blue, yellow, white), & artist brush	TV (in good condition)
Fabric for sewing (Tetrex white, blue, red, white, pink, yellow, green plaid & figured)	Canned food: peas, channa







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**WITH SYMPATHY**  
*Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord*

Members would like to express their sympathy to the families of members, volunteers, donors, supporters and friends of GCC, who have passed since our last newsletter.

Lousie De Castro	Barbara Morrish
Augustus Gittens	Beatrice Reynolds
Lloyd Gomes	Vera Rodrigues
Adelaide (Addie) Gonsalves	Joseph Teixeira
Maureen Irwin	Tessa Valladares
Reginald Lopes	Ruth Went
Victor Lopes (USA)	Dr. Roy Wong
Hector Yun Low-Koon (Guyana)	Peter Vyfhuis
Kay Low-Koon (Guyana)	

The families of our deceased brothers and sisters thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy.

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

## 2020 -- A Year of Great challenges for the World

As COVID-19 spreads around the world, no one would have imagined the impact it would have on businesses and industries across the globe, as well as the lives of many.

Could we emerge from this crisis with some human enhanced qualities? The most significant lesson that this pandemic has taught is what is important in life, how to restructure our lifestyles and how to cope with the loss of freedom. Some include:

- the value and appreciation of life, our self-care relating to our health and our return to our religion beliefs
- the importance of family and loved ones and lifestyle changes of unity and kindness to all
- the flexibility and creativity of working habits and the adaptation to various negative situations
- the surge of new entrepreneurial endeavors, digitized education and access to the Internet
- the accountability of individual financial and self-indulgence of spending
- the significance of all frontline and health care workers;
- the consequences of world pollution including the recognition for increased hygienic practices in public and various facilities
- the awareness to boost public health funding as well as increased local support for small businesses

With all of these challenges throughout the world, it is good to know that there are some things that continue in our lives, such as love, relationships, conversations, music, reading, self-care and best of all....HOPE, FAITH and CHARITY.

When faith and hope fail, as they do sometimes, we must try charity, which is love in action.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Give a Helping Hand

.....*Our yearly Events*.....  
will depend on  
how safe it is  
in the best  
interest of everyone



so  
kindly  
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for  
our  
notices

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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 WE DEPEND ON YOUR GENEROSITY.

**YES! I WANT TO HELP**

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

**GENERAL**  **GCC-BERNARD GONSALVES MEMORIAL FUND**

**IN MEMORY**  **St. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL FUND**

**TRIBUTE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Receipts are issued for donations of \$20 and over**

Your donation of **\$10.00 or more is tax-deductible**. A receipt will be mailed, **if so requested**. CHARITABLE NO. 89096-5643-RR0001.

Please send your cheque & email with 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  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 form the **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Yes, I wish to assist with donation of **ITEMS/SUPPLIES**

Yes, I would like to help with the:

**BAKE & FOOD SALE**  **PACKING** for shipments

**DANCES**  **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**

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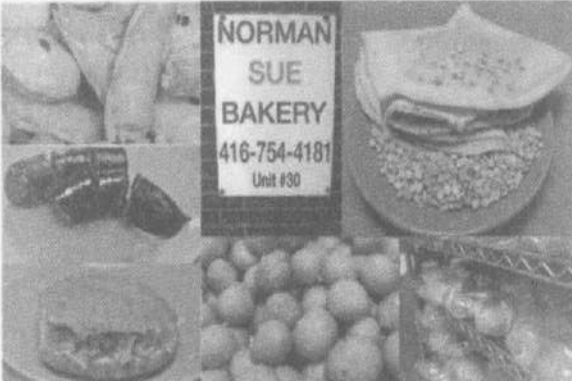
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