

# GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.

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

Website: <http://www.gcccanada.org> Email: [gcccaninc@gmail.com](mailto:gcccaninc@gmail.com)

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

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001



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## Kudos to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) was presented this year with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Consulate General of Guyana, Anyin Choo to Dexter Gonsalves, President of GCC, on behalf of organization – (See pictures below). This certificate recognizes GCC for its donation of medical equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Public Health and Guyanese Charities.



Dexter Gonsalves and Anyin Choo



L-R: Kumar Singh, Karen Heifa, Anyin Choo, Dexter Gonsalves, Rahana Khan, Joseph Castanheiro, and Stephen Choo Wing

GCC has previously been recognized by the Guyana Government and the Guyana Consulate, Toronto, ON, for their substantial contribution to Guyana on various occasions during the years of 1994, 1995, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2016.

Since 1987, when GCC became a Registered Charity in Canada over thirty-two (32) years ago, we have been providing aid and assistance to Guyanese organizations and charities, individuals and others in need through numerous identified objectives. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of its members, volunteers, donors and supporters (past and present); we are able to assist the needy and the poor.

## 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> <b>Dexter Gonsalves</b> 416-293-8622	<b>Vice President</b> <b>Kumar Singh</b> 416-498-9962	<b>Secretary</b> <b>Jackie Amres</b> 905-428-9030	<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Karen Heifa</b> 416-720-6902
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#### DIRECTORS

<b>Elizabeth Abdool</b> 416-912-6814	<b>Joe Castanheiro</b> 905-421-1404	<b>Stephen Choo-Wing</b> 905-420-2789	<b>Winston Gittens</b> 416-771-2064	<b>Anne Marie Reigber</b> 416-755-6958
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our readers!

Dear Members, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends:

As we approach the end of 2019, we are pleased to provide you with some perspective about the commitment of GCC. Thanks to the steadfast loyalty of our members, volunteers, donors, supporters and advocates, we play a role in assisting changes in the lives of individuals in various communities through collaboration. Even though with all our successes, there are tough problems ahead and therefore the need in the community is still great.

As you would have noticed over the years of association with GCC, many of our accomplishments include combining our efforts with various not-for-profit organizations, here and also in Guyana, to assist someone or an organization in need. This reflects countless ways in which the lives of individuals and families have been improved or enriched through these united partnerships, of which we are happy to be part of these alliances.

One of our members, **John O'Connor**, is involved with Dr. Peter Kuhnert, Institute for the Development of Psychiatric and Mental Health Resources in Guyana Inc., -- a not-for-profit corporation. It aims to improving the quality and quantity of psychiatric service and education in Guyana. Both **GCC and the GCC-Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund** will jointly assist with the cost of bringing three senior psychiatric residents to Canada as medical participants at Grand River Hospital, so that they could provide additional training to the local staff in Guyana.

My sincere thanks to outgoing Directors, Rahana Khan and Pansy Hsan, for their incredible dedication to GCC. Both Rahana and Pansy will continue to assist GCC in various areas of undertakings. Also, I would like to welcome our two incoming Directors, Jackie Amres and Winston Gittens, as well as all new members and volunteers of GCC.

GCC is sad to report on the passing of one of our loyal and stalwart supporters, Billy Fernandes, in Guyana. Also, we have lost a long-time volunteer/supporter, Gus De Freitas, and one of our brilliant musicians, D.J. and supporter, Victor Shim, who participated at many of our various dances. Our Deepest Sympathy goes out to their families and to all who lost their loved ones. May they rest in peace.

Again, in closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of our members, volunteers and supporters. Looking ahead to 2020, we will continue to need the help of all of you generous people to build on our legacy of charity. Thank you for joining us in our mission.

Please accept my best wishes for a happy and healthy winter season!

God Bless.

Sincerely,

*Dexter Gonsalves*

President

# PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



Kumar Singh

The vessel "SS Jennifer Schepers 52S" was scheduled to arrive in Guyana on October 13, 2019. On this vessel is a 40-ft. container with 808 pieces of charitable goods consigned to over sixty (60) organizations and individuals across Guyana for distribution before the Christmas Holidays. The goods include men, women and children's clothing; books; shoes; food items; toys; wheelchairs; walkers; computers and accessories; toiletries; school supplies; medical supplies; and over 70 bicycles. These donated goods will be delivered well before the Christmas holidays by John Fernandes Ltd. and will surely assist the less fortunate across the land, putting a smile on the faces of many.

Thanks again to all our volunteers and members, who give their time and energy to collect the donations from our supporters in and outside of the GTA. They then sort and pack them for shipment. This is the **second (2<sup>nd</sup>) 40 ft. container** to be shipped to Guyana for the year 2019 by GCC.

To defray the costs of these shipments, GCC has **four (4) fundraising events annually**. These are the **Valentine Dance**, the **Spring and Fall Dances** and the very popular **Food and Bake Sale** in October. The Guyanese diaspora and their friends regularly attend events and do enjoy them. Financial support is also welcome and Tax Receipts are issued. Many thanks to all our donors, supporters and volunteers for their continued assistance, which enabled GCC to achieve its mandate and continue to be successful in helping so many in our native land.

Please contact the following members if you are interested in participating in any of our events within our organization:

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR THE YEAR 2020.



**Christmas** is an annual festival commemorating the birth of **Jesus Christ**, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. Popular modern customs of the holiday include **gift giving**, an exchange of **Christmas cards**, **church services**, a **special meal**, **Christmas crackers**, display of various **Christmas decorations**, including **Christmas trees**, **Christmas lights**, **nativity scenes**, **garlands**, **wreaths**, **mistletoe**, and **holly**. Because gift-giving and many other aspects of the Christmas festival involve heightened economic activity, the holiday has become a significant event and a key sales period for retailers and businesses. The economic impact of Christmas has grown steadily over the past few centuries in many regions of the world.

In various countries, there are several closely related and often interchangeable figures, known as **Santa Claus**, **Father Christmas**, **Saint Nicholas**, and **Christ kind**, associated with bringing gifts to children during the Christmas season and having their own body of **traditions** and lore.

Though it may include all of the above, **the meaning of Christmas is greater**. Let it be greater for you. Let it be a time, then, that you remember that you have a greater purpose in the world and that you have been sent into the world to reclaim this purpose—to accept it, to experience it and to follow it so that it may be shared.

Christmas Day is a public holiday in many of the world's nations, is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians, as well as culturally by many non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the holiday season.



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.

## News from St. Ann's Orphanage

*Dear Rose and the rest of Guyana Christian Charities:*

Thank You for the many boxes of items we received in June 2019, as we approach the second week of summer (July/August) holidays; we would like to also share some of our success stories and challenges with you.

### Success Stories:

Five of our girls wrote the National Grade Six Examination last April (*Shenial Case, Cindy Deoravain, Angelina Williams, Lisa Thomas and Niame Thomas*). Three attended *Marian Primary*, one attended *St. Gabriel's* and one at *St. Angela's*. They placed at top high schools and we are very proud of them. In addition, there were also three girls who wrote the CXC Examination (*Lisa Mendonca, Felicia Monderson, and Charmaine Warrick*) and we are awaiting the results. Lisa has moved on, she's now living with her older sister. Charmaine and Felicia are participating work study programs.

Currently, there are ten girls participating in the "*Cooking with Kids at Carnegie*". The girls are having fun meeting other children and learning to make different dishes and cakes. Bringing home samples of what was done that day. The other girls are going to their various schools for summer programs that are being offered. There will be a sewing course the last week in July, making tote bags and clutches.

In other events at St. Ann's, five of our girls were baptized and three others made their First Communion.

*"Because you are his child you not only need him, but he needs you."*



We continue to encourage the girls to stay involved in the community by feeding the homeless and distributing food baskets to the elderly. One of whom was an old employee of St. Ann's.

With all of our success stories we have had a number of challenges. Some of our girls are simply not co-operating. We try to provide for their total development, physical, mental and of course spiritual. But some of them are not seeing the importance of the spiritual aspect yet. Each night we talk about Jesus and how he navigated his daily life to hopefully bring their awareness to love of God and love of neighbor.

Rose, we are particularly touched *when help comes to us from persons who live abroad*. Such remembrance and thoughtfulness encourages us to continue our efforts to foster attitudes and character traits in our girls that will make this world a better place.

## Do you know....

You can request that your United Way contributions be specifically designated to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. Kindly contact your Human Resources/Personnel Department.

*Lauren Harry a.k.a. Sister H* (a member of GCC) expressed thanks on behalf of the various charities in Guyana that she assists with the help of GCC. This includes over twenty-five communities (including some nursing homes, Burnt care unit Georgetown Hospital, Saxacali, Guyana Prison Services, Ruimveldt Children's Home, Tiger Bay, Island, Canal, the homeless and many others).



Communities expressing thanks

Below are some of the children from Rasville GT and Paradise communities waiting in line for their treats from Sister H.



Here is Sister H with one of our homeless "bro", who was overjoyed to see her, as he came to collect his wheel chair donated by a friend of ours.



True friendship.....his homeless friend brought him to get the chair

## Together We Care

Thanks to **Sister H's (Lauren Harry)** request, an eight-year old child who currently suffers from Cerebral Palsy has now been fitted with foot braces and a new walker to allow her to be mobile and to walk independently.



The family has expressed gratitude to **Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC)** and the **GCC-Bernard Gonsalves Memorial Fund (GCC-BGMF)** for jointly financing this initiative and for caring, as well as Sister H. who is always willing to assist the needy.



## Mercy Resident Care

Deborah C. Ramsay  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Set in the quiet neighborhood of Pere Street in Kitty, Georgetown, sits St. Joseph Mercy Resident Care. This Home away from Home Facility caters to thirty three residents, ranging in age from fifty seven (57) years to ninety seven (97) years presently. Sadly, our 102 year old passed away in mid-January. While it is part of what happens in a Home, we continue to offer counseling services to the roommates and staff to help them through this sad period.

Mercy Resident Care is a two flat facility that houses a peaceful courtyard. Simple activities, like sitting in the warm sunshine in the mornings and early evenings, as well congregating to chat with visitors amid the ambiance of flora under the brightly painted umbrellas, is a regular occurrence.

A small enclosure with comfortable seating is set aside for prayers and Mass.

There is a clinical staff of thirty four (34) who take care of the residents, whose illness vary with Alzheimer's making up 70% overall. The most advanced stages are mostly bedridden so additional nursing care is always needed.



Manager of the Home with Hospital Executives

During 2018, Copa Airlines became a partner and offer assistance in any event planned, where their staff would come and be part of the activity. They also assist in transporting our residents to shopping areas to alleviate the boredom of being confined in one location all the time.

We continue to rely on donations as the maintenance of this facility is very costly. Thanks to the kind support of our overseas donors, we are able to have specific needy requirements such as sheets, easy chairs and hoists to support those that are immobile.

The plan for 2019 is to address individual and corporate sponsorship of the wards and rooms, which will go a tremendous way in easing our expenses.

Volunteers are always welcome, whether you are visiting Guyana for a few weeks, or a local and want to spend some time with our residents, we welcome you. If you are a professional e.g. hairdresser and wish to visit and groom or just wish to visit and chat, play card or domino games or do fitness stretches, we appreciate the time you will spend with our residents.

We appreciate the continuous assistance of the foreign students, who spend a year to complete their internship, and sometimes return for six (6) months after they have graduated.

All are welcomed at Mercy Resident Care, as we continue to cater to the aged who are sometimes forgotten in this age of fast movement.

## Congratulations to Dr. Honnet Searwar, FRCS, AA



In 2019, The Caribbean College of Surgeons presented Dr. Honnet Searwar with the award as a CCOS honoree.

In April 2019, tribute was also paid to Dr. Searwar by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJM) for his outstanding contributions of fifty two (52) years, as a colleague, friend and mentor, and his timely and kind guidance as they were finding their way in an unusually demanding field of work. Dr. Searwar has served Guyana with dedication and distinction as a specialist surgeon and as general medical practitioner. He has made an incredible and positive difference to lives of many by restoring a multitude of ill persons to good health and saved the lives of countless patients.

In 1992, Dr. Searwar was awarded the Arrow Head of Achievement Award (AA) in recognition of his services as a doctor and surgeon to the people of Guyana.

In 1954, Honnet Searwar earned a scholarship to study medicine at the University College of the West Indies. He returned to Guyana in 1960 and worked at the Georgetown Public Hospital until 1963. He repositioned his work to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital from 1963 to 1966, moved to the United Kingdom for further surgical training, earning the F.R.C.S. (Ed.) Degree in 1969. Dr. Searwar then returned to Guyana and served at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital from 1970 until today.

## ONTARIO VOLUNTEER AWARDS



This year, the following volunteers were recognized for providing committed and dedicated services to GCC by The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards Committee.

Nicole Gouveia-Martinez	--	20 years	David Vieira	--	15 years
Carole Taylor	--	20 years	Wendy Vieira	--	15 years
Maureen Tiam-Fook	--	15 years	Maureen Cowan	--	10 years

Below are three of the volunteers along with the MPPs of Whitby and Ajax.



Wendy Vieira and MPP Ajax Hon. Mr. Rod Phillips

Volunteers are recognized for their continuous years of commitment and service to an organization. Youth volunteers (under the age of 24) are recognized for two or more years of continuous service.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." — Leo F. Buscaglia

THANK YOU  
Volunteers!  
We couldn't do it without you

**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, and in particular:

Adrian Castanheiro Marguerite De Abreu Augustus Joseph De Freitas (Gus)	Basil de Rushe William Francis (Billy) Fernandes (Guyana) Gerald Gonsalves	Peter Man-Son-Hing Ronald Reid Victor Shim
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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.

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

## Reflections -- Remembering Billy

It is with a deep feeling of loss and sadness that the Directors and Members of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) have to announce the passing of William Francis (Billy) Fernandes in Guyana, after a lengthy illness. Billy was one of GCC's staunchest supporters, who ensured our consignments to Guyana (even in remote locations) were handled appropriately and efficiently.

GCC will be forever grateful for all of his kindness and unending support and for his many years of stalwart participation in our shipping and delivery activities to the various recipients in Guyana. His generosity, gentleness and caring disposition will always live on in the hearts of everyone that he interacted with, as well as those he assisted.

To his sister Anne Marie Reigber (one of GCC's founding and dedicated members), his wife Sandra and their children and grandchildren, as well as the entire Fernandes' family, we offer our thoughts, prayer and sincere condolences in the loss of their loved one. May Billy find eternal peace and rest in Heaven.

### Wish List

*We are in need of your assistance:*

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



### Guyana's History You thought you knew

<b>Q:</b>	<b>Who were the "Winkel Slaves" of British Guiana and why were they significant?</b>
<b>A:</b>	They were highly competent carpenters, bricklayers, brick makers, coopers and artisans generally. They worked under an officer, equivalent to a Director of Public Works, and were hired out to private persons from time to time. <i>They were the first slaves in British Guiana to be freed as a group and this is especially noteworthy, because they were given their freedom before emancipation.</i> To this day, one area in New Amsterdam is called "Winkel", for it was there that these interesting people lived.
<b>Q:</b>	<b>The German botanist Robert Schaumburg came upon an impressive plant on the Berbice River in 1836 and sent specimens back to Europe. Name this plant.</b>
<b>A:</b>	The "Victoria" or "Victoria regia" or "Victoria Amazonia" -- once prized by British gardeners in the Victorian era, is Guyana's national flower, and it also happens to be the world's largest water lily. <i>The English botanist and horticulturist John Lindley established the genus Victoria and named the species regia in honor of Queen Victoria.</i> Interestingly, in 1850 the year after botanists were able to get the Victoria to flower in Europe, Queen Victoria, accompanied by the French president (later Napoleon III), went to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew to view the flowering.

Come Join us and Enjoy .....Our yearly Events



**Valentine Dinner and Dance**

Saturday, February 15, 2020 @ 7.30 p.m.  
**St. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall**  
 231 Milner Avenue, Scarborough, ON  
 (Entrance on Milner Ave. – north of Hwy.)  
 Band: Fuh Fun – D.J. Raymond “Bakes”



**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.



**Spring Dance**

Saturday, May 16, 2020 @ 7.30 p.m.  
**Chestnut Hill Developments**  
**Recreation Complex**  
 1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering  
 (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.--South of Hwy 2)



**Fall Dance**

Saturday, September 26, 2020 @ 7.30 p.m.  
**Chestnut Hill Developments**  
**Recreation Complex**  
 1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering  
 (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.--South of Hwy 2)

Secure your Tickets for these dances early



<b>Rahana Khan</b>	416-540-5255
<b>Mike Gonsalves</b>	416-420-0565
<b>Dexter Gonsalves</b>	905-428-3883
<b>Dennis Choy</b>	905-839-0434

or.... any GCC member or....  
 email: [gcccaninc@gmail.com](mailto:gcccaninc@gmail.com)



**Annual Bake & Food Sale**  
**Free Admission**  
**SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2020**  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Chestnut Hill Developments**  
**Recreation Complex**  
 1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering  
 (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.)  
 South of Highway 2

**New Donors** ← Please contact: **Pansy Hsan 905-426-6099**

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 Email: [dextergonsalves@bellnet.ca](mailto:dextergonsalves@bellnet.ca)

**YES! I WANT TO HELP**

- \$100  \$75  \$50  \$25  Other
- GENERAL  BERNARD GONSALVES MEMORIAL FUND
- IN MEMORY  St. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL FUND
- TRIBUTE

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**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.**  
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**Donations** may also be made through our Website:  
<http://www.gcccanada.org> (through **CanadaHelps.org**)

**NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST**

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 My address has been changed

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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:  
 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**



Victoria amazonica is a species of flowering plant, the largest of the **Nymphaeaceae** family of water lilies. It is the **National flower** of **Guyana**. They are up to 40 cm (16 in) in diameter, and are pollinated by **beetles**. This process was described detail by Sir **Ghilleen Prance** and Jorge Arius.

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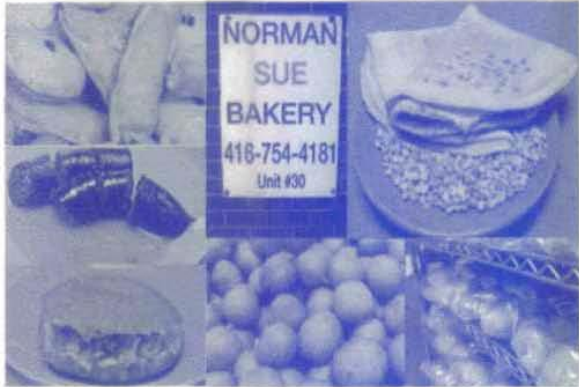
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