

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 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

Thank You...Thank You... Thank You For Your Support

... to all those who responded and donated to our "Special Appeal" in the last newsletter, in which we tried to alleviate some of our losses due to the need to cancel our regular fund-raising events.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners. We hope you are enjoying your prizes!

As the Covid-19 Pandemic continues, with unfortunately no end in sight at this time, we continue to lean on our supporters for assistance in order to be able to carry on our help to those in need in Guyana.

We are on target to send a shipment in a few months. If you can find it possible to help us in any way, we welcome your generosity, as we are unable to hold any of our fundraising activities in the near future. Any kind gesture to help those in need during the pandemic would be greatly valued.

We would like to thank all of our supporters for their past participation in GCC. Your contribution of time and energy and your generous contributions are most welcomed. Our events, in the past, have always been successful because of people like you and for that we are also immensely grateful. Thank you once again. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

As James Matthew Barrie quotes: "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2020 – 2021)				
OFFICERS				
President Dexter Gonsalves 416-293-8622	Vice President Kumar Singh 416-498-9962	Secretary Jackie Amres 905-428-9030	Treasurer Richard Gomes 416-801-3918	
DIRECTORS				
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



Greetings to all readers!

Dear members, volunteers, supporters and friends,

Happy New Year to all and hopefully 2021 will be better in more ways than one for each and every one of you and your families.

We did experience a great setback in 2020 because of COVID-19 and because of this we were unable to have all our usual fundraising events, such as the Spring Dance, the Fall Dance and the Bake Sale. We surely miss engaging with our supporters and friends of GCC at our various events.

Thankfully, we continue to receive donations of much needed items from our generous supporters. We have done a shipment to Guyana and will be shipping additional items in the near future. Our fundraising events usually enable us to pay the shipping costs. Hopefully we will be able to resume these events very soon. My sincere thanks to all who contributed.

2020 has surely proven that we certainly cannot predict the future and so for 2021 it looks almost certain that our Valentine Dance and our Spring Dance will not happen. We are hopeful that the other two events, our Fall Dance and Bake sale will happen this year. Of course this will depend on whether it is safe for everyone as we would not like to endanger anyone. We will keep everyone posted as soon as we know for sure.

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. Food for the poor is a great example of one of those wonderful organizations.

I would also like to send out my sincere condolences to the families of GCC members and supporters who have passed away. I hope you find solace in your memories of them.

I would like to close by reiterating my deepest appreciation to our members, donors, supporters and volunteers for your continued help in making our association a great success in helping others. Please accept my best wishes for a happy, safe and healthy winter season.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Dexter Gonsalves
President

PACKING & SHIPPING UPDATE



Kumar Singh

The 40-ft. container of charitable items consisting of 822 packages of clothing, hospitable beds, medical supplies, computers, a lawn mower, bicycles, school supplies. etc. were shipped and arrived in Guyana on October 2020 and were distributed to all the consignees.

Several letters of thanks and gratitude were sent by the recipients to Guyana Christian Charities (GCC). These letters expressed the sincere appreciation and gave us the encouragement to continue our charitable activities. Please note the letter from Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre in the "Thank You" section below. Our dedicated members, volunteers and executives work tirelessly to assist the less fortunate folks in Guyana.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made these activities much more challenging, but the need is even greater. Thanks to the generosity of all the donors, and the dedication of our members and volunteers who continue to pack from their homes to prevent a cluster in order to keep healthy.

Our next shipment is scheduled for April/May 2021 with about 500 boxes, already packed, for 60 different organizations. Our fundraising activities had to be cancelled because of the epidemic, but thanks to several supporters who made financial donations to boost our ability to meet the cost of shipment and other commitments e.g. to orphanages in Guyana. If you can help, kindly make a donation and a Tax Receipt will be issued.

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

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

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A team is more than a collection of people. It is a process of give and take.

Barbara Glacel & Emile Robert Jr.

Another First



Surgical Associates Guyana has introduced laser treatment of kidney stones at the **St. Joseph Mercy Hospital**. This technique uses a high intensity laser beam to pulverize stones through an endoscope.

The **St. Joseph Mercy Hospital** is the first and only hospital in the country with the equipment and expertise to offer this modern method of treatment.

Surgical Associates Guyana, based at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, is a group of young Guyanese surgeons who are highly skilled in their respective fields. **They have a common mission of providing the Guyanese people with first world level surgical care. This significant investment is a reflection of their commitment to the development of healthcare in this country.**

The first case of a kidney stone treated with the laser in Guyana was a 34-year-old female with a 1.1cm stone in the kidney. The patient was successfully treated at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and was discharged within hours of the procedure. Traditionally, this would have required an incision on the abdomen, two to three days of hospitalization and weeks of convalescence.



Dr. Sukhraj (second from left) with the operating room team

The surgery was performed by **Dr. Rajendra Sukhraj, a trained specialist urological surgeon.** Dr. Sukhraj is highly experienced in treating kidney stones with the laser. He returned to Guyana one year ago after completing a post-graduate degree in Urology at the University of the West Indies.

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

— Steve Jobs

Collaboration with the Lions Club



St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, in collaboration with the Lions Club, held a health outreach last Saturday, November 21, in the Bel Air area. Over 60 patients were able to have blood sugar, blood pressure and other medical checks done free of charge. Those who were found to require further medical attention were referred to the St Joseph Mercy Hospital.



The two organizations usually collaborate to hold this event twice in the year, but owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, this is the only time it was held for 2020.▯

Mercy Resident Care....



Thanks were extended to the families De Mendonca/Martins (formerly of New Amsterdam now resident in Canada), by St. Joseph



Mercy Hospital, for their kind donation of a digital keyboard, to Mercy Resident Care. The following pictures show two of the residents, **Dr. Joycelyne Loncke** and **Ms. Jane de Freitas**, who were delighted to play some tunes for other residents.





Congratulations

Canada Guyana Outreach Mission (CANGO) was nominated, chosen and presented with an award in appreciation and recognition of valuable contributions in Philanthropy.

A Virtual Guyanese Republic Golden Jubilee Awards Ceremony and Cultural Evening” under the theme An Evening of Appreciation, Recognition and Unity” on Sunday, December 27, 2020 by Guyana 50th Republic Anniversary Celebration Committee in Toronto, Canada under the auspices of the Consulate General of Guyana in Toronto, Canada.

NO BEAUTY
SHINES BRIGHTER
THAN THAT OF
A GOOD HEART.

Although they are no magic words to cure depression or loss, just like a warm hug or a shoulder to lean on, words can go a long way in changing a very bad day to having at least one thing to smile about, words can put some light on a gloomy mood.



Extracts from Letters of Appreciation for our Assistance

The children, staff and Board of Directors of the **Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre (PRRC)** wish to thank you for the generous donation of wheelchairs, wheelchair parts and a feeding table.

Your contribution will play a *significant role in the effective delivery of programmes such as daycare and temporary residential services for children with special needs, rehabilitation therapy, special education, the provision of hearing aids and audiological testing, and the manufacture of orthotic & prosthetic appliances*, all of which help to enable the fuller and equal participation of persons with disabilities in our society.

Therefore we extend our sincere appreciation for your recognition of our efforts to provide quality rehabilitation services.

Support such as yours has helped to propel the growth and development of this Centre and enable our steps toward future achievement.

Hyacinth G. Massay Manager Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation

..... Greetings you all. I must extend thanks to you and your team for your ongoing support of which I am grateful. The books are of great help. I also give some of the items to the less fortunate who do not live in the homes....but are in need. They too are grateful. I am so much appreciative whatever is sent because it gives a smile to the less fortunate. You can put on the boxes to come **Charity for Children in Need (CCIN)**...why because there is no more DiC. may you all continue to be strong and let your light continue to shine. Blessings and more blessings to you all.

Sis in Christ. Charity for Children in Need (CCIN)

.....**Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC)**, I wish to extend sincere gratitude to you and the members of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. for the generous donation of the various medical supplies (incl. wheelchair and bath chair). This donation was most timely and will immensely benefit our facility, staff and more importantly, our patients.

Fiona McKoy Administrative Manager Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation

I am happy to inform you and the committee that we have received the 29 packages sent to us. **Ms. Wendy (Beacon Foundation Hospice)** was informed and she picked up her packages. On behalf of the Directors, staff and patients our sincerest gratitude to you and the Guyana Christian Charities Canada

Bibi, Beacon Foundation Hospice


I just wanted to thank you for the donations we received last year. Even though late, please accept our appreciation for the ..9 boxes.would appreciate items such as gloves, trolleys, mattress covers rubber, industrial mop buckets, heavy duty combination blender and processor, toaster if possible. Once again thank you on behalf of Uncle Eddie's Home residents for making their lives a bit easier.

Denise Boodie Uncle Eddie's Home

I would like to extend a "Big" thank and my appreciation to everyone at GCC for the pair of crutches sent to me which was delivered to the St. Vincent De Paul in New Amsterdam for me to pick-up

Jerome DeSouza



 Guyana's History You thought you knew	
Q:	What is the national bird of Guyana
A:	The national bird is the Hoatzin
Q:	How are the natural regions divided in Guyana
A:	Guyana can be divided into five natural regions; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a narrow and fertile marshy plain along the Atlantic coast (low coastal plain) where most of the population lives; 2. a white sand belt more inland (hilly sand and clay region), containing most of Guyana's mineral deposits; 3. the dense rain forests (Forested Highland Region) in the southern part of the country; 4. the desert savannah in the southern west; and 5. the smallest interior lowlands (interior savannah) consisting mostly of mountains that gradually rise to the Brazilian border
Q:	What is the national animal of Guyana
A:	The national animal is the Jaguar, which is also known as Felis Pantera

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.

Gerard A. Bayley	Vincent Mendes De Franca
Shirley De Abreu	George Morrison
Philip Andrew De Barros	Shirley Moottoo
Peter Denny	Joseph Bernard Perreira
Gabriel Gonsalves	Mary Julietta Daniels-Rayman
Ronald Gonsalves (France)	Dr. John Searwar (Guyana)
Joanne Jardim (Guyana)	June Ann Storey (England)
Dawn Mendes De Franca	Elson Young-Ping

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.

LET US TRY TO DO OUR PART

1. Stay at home if you are sick or at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19
2. If you must go out in public, avoid crowds or contact with people who are sick -- keep your distance and wear a mask and stay away six-feet from others -- wash cloth masks in boiling water with a dash of bleach or disinfectant before reusing them.
3. Do NOT touch your face, nose or eyes with unwashed hands
4. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, -- tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, computers, phones, keyboards, sinks, toilets, faucets and countertops.
6. Do not track bacteria into your home. After being outside:
 - a. Do not walk around the house in your shoes.
 - b. If you have pets and walked them outside, remember to wash your pet's paws when you get home. Do not let your dog or cat wander in and out of the house as it pleases.
 - c. Remove your clothes and put them in the laundry (wash with detergent and disinfectant later). Do not sit on couch or bed until you have showered, etc.
7. Strengthen your immune system with vitamin C, fish oil, curcumin, garlic oil, zinc, selenium and vitamin D supplements
8. See a doctor if you have the flu.
9. Keep your living areas clean with disinfectant.
10. Stay calm

"Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this."

— Celine Dion

Wish List

We are in need of your assistance

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



a little of this & a little of that VALENTINE TRIVIA

Match the clues on the left with things having to do with Valentine's Day.

Happy Valentine's Day

- A. What day of the month is Valentine's Day?
- B. Basic shape used often on Valentine's Day
- C. The O in XOXOXOX means what?
- D. Favorite color featured on Valentine's Day
- E. A dozen red ones of these says "I Love You"
- F. What color rose would you give to a friend?
- G. A card given on Valentine's Day
- H. He is the patron saint of lovers
- I. Something you keep flowers in
- J. You might call someone you really like this
- K. He'll make you fall in love if his arrow strikes you
- L. An emblem of peace
- M. They form lifelong bonds with their mates
- N. You might write this to your sweetheart
- O. Delicious treat sometimes in the shape of a heart
- P. A novel dealing with love
- Q. The X in XOXOXOXO means what?
- R. The Goddess of Love in Greek Mythology

- ___ Love Letter
- ___ Red
- ___ Aphrodite
- ___ Dove
- ___ Yellow
- ___ Chocolate
- ___ Hugs
- ___ St. Valentine
- ___ Kisses
- ___ Vase
- ___ 14th
- ___ Sweetheart
- ___ Cupid
- ___ Romance
- ___ Valentine
- ___ Heart
- ___ Lovebirds
- ___ Roses

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Free



Free

Upcoming Events

Come Join us and EnjoyOur yearly Events

Due to the Pandemic, our first two events for 2021 will be cancelled.

- the "Valentine Dance" and
- the "Spring Dance"

UNSURE

Fall Dance
 Saturday, September 2021 @ 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

Rahana Khan	416-540-5255
Mike Gonsalves	416-420-0565
Dexter Gonsalves	905-428-3883
Dennis Choy	905-839-0434
Lauren Knight	289-314-6888

or.... any GCC Member or....
 email: gcccaninc@gmail.com

UNSURE

Annual Bake & Food Sale
Free Admission
SUNDAY OCTOBER 2021
 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**



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 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 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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT



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 (February and October)

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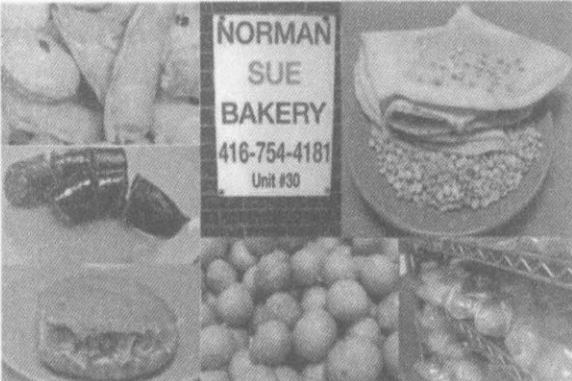
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