



GUYANA MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.

NEWSLETTER—Volume 16—No. 3

December 2008

A Happy Holidays to all our Supporters!



As the new year dawned in 2008, it became clear that our amazing Chief Operating Officer, Sonia Isaacs could not continue in the dual role of COO and Treasurer. The Operating Committee and Board members elected Sharir Chan to take over the role of COO while Sonia continues in her role as Treasurer. Karen Layne was also confirmed as Secretary of the Organization .

As the new officers took their stations, GMR was faced with new challenges which prompted revisions in how we do business with the Government of Guyana and the hospitals we support. These operational changes have resulted in GMR working to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Government. Previously, the cost of transportation of donated supplies and equipment was borne by the receiving hospitals. However, standard international rules governing charitable donations recommend that additional burdens like the cost of transportation of donated items not be placed on the receiving countries. As a result, GMR will now pay the cost of transportation of all items shipped to the individual hospitals.

And with the realities of these difficult economic times, GMR is acutely aware of the impact on all of our loyal supporters. Let us all hope that 2009 sees a dramatic turn in the economic affairs of us all.....

Have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from your GMR Family!

The Website

You can find us on the Internet at www.guyanamedicalrelief.com. Some pages on the site are still under construction, but all basic information about us is available. This and future newsletters will be available on the web. You will also be able to apply for membership and make donations to the Organization on the website. So visit us there for more information.

DESKAN INSTITUTE

Deskan Institute & Training, Inc. is located at 424 Orchards Walk, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. It is a non-profit organization with a strong history of service to the communities in Atlanta, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, South America and the Caribbean. The Organization strives "to assist organizations to strengthen their capacity to provide services and to enhance the work environment with the objective of expanding the delivery of health education, health promotion and harm reduction to at-risk groups". Deskan provides comprehensive information about its activities on its website at <http://deskan.net>.

GMR has been in a useful partnership with Deskan for the past 6 years. Each year Deskan sends a mission to Guyana, assisted by funding from GMR. Dr. Liverpool, founder and ardent leader of these missions to Guyana, has expressed sincere appreciation for GMR's support. She indicated that on the mission in July, 2008 they focused on providing a great deal of service to the Amerindian people, as this group is greatly underserved. There were educational sessions on hypertension, diabetes and HIV/AIDS. The previous year, Deskan focused its mission in Queenstown, Essequibo; Kuru Kururu on the Linden Highway, St. Cuthbert's Mission, Buxton and the Wyaka Settlement near Mainstay. This mission focused on prostate cancer screening, hypertension, blood sugar monitoring, HIV/AIDS. Details of the report can be found on the Organization's website.

GMR wishes Dr. Liverpool continued success in these missions she undertakes in Guyana.



**Dr. Liverpool and Mission Members
Guyana Mission - July, 2008**





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Lloyd Stoll, D.D.S. *Vice President*

Sheik Ramessar

Eula Kennard-Menzies, M.S.

Sonia Isaacs
Treasurer

Karen Layne
Secretary

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Sharir Chan
(323) 965-9914 - *Tel. & Fax*

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M. Narine, D.D.S.
Texas
Mohammed Omar

Mailing Address

Guyana Medical Relief, Inc.
Po Box 4517454
Los Angeles, Ca 90035

Office & Fax (323) 965-9914
E-mail: gmrem@aol.com

Internet Address

www.guyanamedicalrelief.com

GMR - 2008

During 2008, GMR maintained its efforts to expand training and education in the Healthcare Sector:

- Support for Deskan Missions by overseas medical personnel
- Strong support for HIV/AIDS testing and prevention programs
- Support and expansion of Mercy Hospital's Mobile Clinic
- Support for Volunteer Youth Corp. (health telephones expansion)
- Linden Hospital —new computer system with a scanner, fax, printer was installed.

While medical shipments remain the major part of our operation, other programs have added diversity to the assistance we provide to the Guyana healthcare sector. As previously described, the Mobile Clinic greatly extends the reach of medical care to the poor in Georgetown. The Deskan Missions allow an increasing spread of knowledge and medical information to those who need it most. There is, therefore, an increasing need to expand our support base in order to continue these vital services. So while we have greatly appreciated your past support, we urge your continued assistance in this cause. Hospitals assisted were:

***New Amsterdam; Port Mourant;
Mahaicony; Linden; Bartica; Suddie;
St. Joseph's Mercy; Davis Memorial***

TENTATIVE MASTER CALENDAR FOR 2009

APRIL—GMR'S Annual Membership General Meeting.
MAY/JUNE—GMR's Annual Walk-A-Thon.
JUNE – Bartica Hospital Luncheon.
AUGUST– A Mahaicony Function.
SEPTEMBER—Linden Hospital's Annual Guyana Breakfast.
OCTOBER– GMR's Annual Dinner/Dance.

The New Nursing School in Guyana

Two hundred and four persons graduated from the Georgetown School of Nursing at a ceremony held at the National Cultural Centre on Thursday.

They were from four different categories: Professional Nursing, Post-Basic Midwifery, Single-Trained Midwifery and Nursing Assistant. Eighteen of the graduates were awarded for exceptional performance in the different categories.

In delivering the school's report Principal Nursing Tutor Sister Pearl Munroe said she was happy with the school's pass rate for 2008, which was at 97 per cent. She noted that the school has seen a 200 per cent increase in number of students this year. And although the ten-member staff, which is inclusive of administrative staff and cleaners, complemented by 15 part-time staff members, try their utmost to deliver a smooth learning experience for the students, they are faced with difficulties.

Munroe highlighted the challenges in her speech and urged Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Hydar Ally, who delivered the guest speaker's remarks in the absence of Minister in the Ministry of Health Dr Bheri Ramsarran, to take note.

