

Providing Healthcare to Those in Need



Food fair fundraiser event held in May in Canada

The Guyana Burn and Healthcare Charitable Foundation (GBHCF), also known as Caribbean North Charitable Foundation, is a medical charitable foundation that supplies Guyanese hospitals with equipment and education to better meet the needs of people in mainly Guyana and the Caribbean region.

The foundation identifies projects based on need then develops, funds, implements and evaluates programmes. It is committed to providing humanitarian aid to underserved and under-served parts of the world without bias.

Founded by Harry Harakh and his wife Pamela, along with Desmond DeBarros, the foundation was established in 1998 in response to the lack of adequate medical care for burn victims in Guyana and the Caribbean. Since then, the foundation has raised money and equipment in Canada

to create the Guyana Burn Care Unit, the first of its kind in the Caribbean where patients can receive proper medical attention and skin reconstruction.

The organisation is also involved with non-burn related healthcare. It has developed a programme to educate Guyanese nurses on neonatal care for at-risk newborns in accordance with the Canadian Paediatric Society's standards. The GBHCF has also sent medical equipment such as beds, mattresses, IV pumps and ECG machines, among other vital supplies, to hospitals in Guyana.

In an interview with *Guyana Times Sunday Magazine*, overseas-based Guyanese co-founder Harry Harakh said the foundation exists to save, improve and empower lives, and effectively meet the needs of all those in medical need in the Caribbean and especially in Guyana.

He added that GBHCF is committed to provide humanitarian aid without bias or discrimination as a non-partisan, non-political organisation. Harakh also mentioned that there is kindness and compassion in everything they do via the foundation as they save and empower lives.

Harakh (MBA, CA) is a

Toronto-based Chartered Accountant with practice experience in finance, taxation, strategic, corporate and governance issues and management skills obtained both as a sole professional practitioner and as senior staff in a number of entities including multinational corporations, bank, government and non government not-for-profit organisations.

His volunteer services with charitable groups include being a founding member and managing director of Plastics Charities Foundation which provides

Guyana. In my profession I meet a lot of people especially those in the medical field who express their interest in reaching out to third world countries to assist medically. My wife Pamela and I suggest to them to come to Guyana. In 1998, a team came, fell in love with the country and, since then, continues to contribute to the medical field in Guyana. Our work is recognised by many notable individuals locally, regionally and especially in Canada. Our organisation brings resources to those that need," he pointed out.

Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). The proceeds, netting over US\$10,000, benefitted the Georgetown Hospital.

On May 5, 2013, GBHCF held a successful annual brunch and was able to raise more than US\$5000 for the Guyana Burn Care Unit and the Tina Insanally Foundation.

Recently, the organisation also held, as part of its ongoing education of nurses and doctors at GPHC, training in prenatal and burn care leading up to online examinations for Caribbean accreditation. Training was done by overseas-based Guyanese Vernie Ally (RN, BS, SCM), a certified instructor in neonatal resuscitation, and Dr. Peter Akai, also a Guyanese, a PHD specialist in wound care and infectious disease.

Dr. Akai met with doctors and nurses at the Burn Care Unit which the organisation facilitated over 10 years ago. GBHCF, on this visit, also reviewed the needs assessments of the public hospital.

On November 14, a graduation ceremony was held for 19 nurses who successfully completed the course in Labour at GPHC in collaboration with GBHCF.

"We are looking at opportunities to diversify and so we're going to be exploring to maximise our input to Tina Insanally Foundation, Cheshire Home and other institutions. My motivation is to not allow anything to deter me from giving back despite challenges," Harakh declared. "Also, medical equipment is generously donated by GBHCF major partner, the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre."

For more information on the organisation visit Guyana Burn & Healthcare Charitable Foundation on Facebook.



A recent donation of medical supplies made by the organisation to GPHC

education and reconstructive surgery in developing countries. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of York Central Hospital, and on several of its committees, resources, quality, strategic, community relations and performance management. Harakh is also a long-time member and contributor to Guyana Christian Charities and a member of the York District Health Council long-term care redirection committee.

"We have many doctors who are eager to contribute their medical expertise in

ed out.

The foundation, according to Harakh, has also contributed significantly to a children's project in collaboration with Vic Insanally of the Tina Insanally Foundation. Through GBHCF, a donation of music equipment was made to the foundation. GBHCF has also vitally supported to the Cheshire Home in Mahaica and the John Bosco Orphanage.

In 2012, GBHCF held a concert fundraiser in Toronto for the Burn and Healthcare Unit at the



Harry and Pamela Harakh