

# DESKAN INSTITUTE AND TRAINING, INC.

Guyana Mission 2012

Cancer: Breast and cervical cancer are the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Guyanese women (Guyana Cancer Institute).



# HEALTHCARE UPDATE IN GUYANA: Dengue & Malaria in Guyana

- ▶ Recent research confirms that climate shifts are causing an increase in malaria cases in Guyana. According to a report released in June by the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), from 2006 to 2010, every millimeter increase in rainfall and one-degree rise in temperature led to an additional 11 cases of malaria.

# HEALTHCARE UPDATE IN GUYANA: DIABETES & GLAUCOMA

- ▶ In Guyana and the Caribbean, the most common type of glaucoma is Open-Angle Glaucoma. Primary open-angle glaucoma usually affects both eyes, but one eye can be worse than the other. Secondary glaucomas are those that occur as a complication of other disorders of the eye such as trauma to the eye and inflammation within the eye.
- ▶ Glaucoma has now become an undeniably prominent cause of blindness. WHO statistics show that glaucoma is now the second leading cause of blindness globally, after cataracts. Whilst cataract is a curable disease, glaucoma presents perhaps an even greater public health challenge than cataracts because the blindness it causes is irreversible.

# HEALTHCARE UPDATE IN GUYANA: Suicide & Domestic Violence

- ▶ Guyana has by far the highest suicide rate among countries in the Caribbean, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Guyana has also been listed in the top ten most suicidal countries, earning the ninth position--45 suicides per 100,000 people. Statistics show that of the more than 45 people who kill themselves, about one-fourth are women.
- ▶ Suicide is recognized as a serious public health issue in Guyana with between 150 and 200 deaths annually. Statistics from 2003 to 2007 show that there were 946 reported suicides in Guyana.

# Guyana Mission 2012

Goals of this year's undertaking:

- To enhance sustainable programs that address cutting-edge issues
- To provide the space for networking
- To build strategic partnerships that will broaden the impact of responses of all social issues
- To provide immunization updates and information for children and young adults.
- To provide mammogram screening for women and prostate cancer check for men.



# Cancellation of Mission to Lethem

## Due to Linden Outcry:

### Location of Linden

- **Linden** is the second largest town in Guyana after Georgetown, and capital of the Upper Demerara-Berbice region.
- Located at 6°N 58.3°W with an altitude of 48 meters (160 feet), the town has a population of roughly 60,000.
- Linden was declared a town in 1970.
- It includes the communities of MacKenzie and Wismar.

# Cancellation of Mission to Lethem Due to Linden Outcry

- ▶ A few weeks ago, there was an announcement that the electricity tariffs in Linden were to increase substantially. This led to outcry from inhabitants in the form of protests, beginning on July 18th.
- ▶ During the protests, the police opened fire on the protestors in an attempt to end the demonstrations.
- ▶ **Three people were killed and more than 20 injured.**

# Linden Outcry

## Protests in Linden



Photo Source: Guyana Times



# Deskan Medical Mission Cancelled Due to Linden Outcry

- ▶ Subsequent to the shootings, the situation in Linden deteriorated. Reports say that residents had been lighting buildings and railway stations on fire.
- ▶ Stories of shootings were published in the papers.
- ▶ Deskan mission was cancelled.



# Roads to Hinterlands Closed

- ▶ Linden is the route that buses and cars take from Georgetown to many of the interior regions, including Lethem (which I visited days before protests began).
- ▶ As a result of the protests, buses stopped travelling, so anyone wishing to go to Lethem needed to fly.
- ▶ Deskan's mission to Region 10, which is where Linden is situated, was cancelled.
- ▶ Limited transportation to Lethem (and all surrounding places in Region 9); food and fuel shortage; spike in fuel prices
- ▶ Due to increased cost of electricity, the city of Lethem turned off all electricity between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

# Deskan made a unilateral decision to reorganize Mission 2012.

- ▶ An area in North Ruimveldt, Georgetown, provided with suitable infrastructure for the express purpose of initially providing accommodation for visiting guests and artists during Carifesta '72
- ▶ About 250 new houses made of greenheart timber were constructed there.
- ▶ Festival City was as self-contained as the organizers could make it. It had its own bank, post office, police station, fire service, dedicated medical staff, laundry, restaurants, shops, and a pool of vehicles for transportation.

# HEALTHCARE: Festival City Lions Club



(Dental Caries, Cardiovascular Illnesses,  
HIV/AIDS, Suicide, Malaria, Filariasis)

# What Is Good Oral Hygiene?

- ▶ Good oral hygiene results in a mouth that looks and smells healthy. This means:
  - ▶ Your teeth are clean and free of debris.
  - ▶ Gums are pink and do not hurt or bleed when you brush or floss.
  - ▶ Bad breath is not a constant problem.
- ▶ If your gums do hurt or bleed while brushing or flossing or you are experiencing persistent bad breath, see your dentist. Any of these conditions may indicate a problem.
- ▶ Your dentist or hygienist can help you learn good oral hygiene techniques and can help point out areas of your mouth that may require extra attention during brushing and flossing.



# How Is Good Oral Hygiene Practiced?

- ▶ Maintaining good oral hygiene is one of the most important things you can do for your teeth and gums. Healthy teeth not only enable you to look and feel good, but also make it possible to eat and speak properly. Good oral health is important to your overall well-being.
- ▶ Daily preventive care, including proper brushing and flossing, will help stop problems before they develop and is much less painful, expensive, and worrisome than treating deteriorated conditions.
- ▶ In between regular visits to the dentist, there are simple steps that each of us can take to decrease the risk of tooth decay, gum disease, and other dental problems. These include:
  - ▶ Brushing thoroughly twice a day and flossing daily
  - ▶ Eating a balanced diet and limiting snacks between meals
  - ▶ Using dental products, including toothpaste, that contain fluoride
  - ▶ Rinsing with a fluoride mouthrinse if your dentist tells you to
  - ▶ Making sure that your children under 12 drink fluoridated water or take a fluoride supplement if they live in a non-fluoridated area.



# QUEENSTOWN HEALTHCARE



Adult Care Deskan provided prevention education and wellness clinic in communities; addressed awareness and imparted knowledge in the areas of hypertension, diabetic cholesterol, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, allergy, suicide, domestic violence, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS screening and testing, and diabetes.

# Queenstown Mission: Testimonials

- ▶ “Deskan Institute has inspired me to inspire others by restoring hope through love, compassion, and dedication. In recognition of my personal commitment and dedication to this medical mission, I am pleased to say I am blessed to be a blessing to people in society” (Nurse Noble).
- ▶ The people of Queenstown were praying that we would some day return to their community and offer help. They were happy to see us, and we were also happy to see and treat the many patients there.

# Prevalence of domestic violence In Guyana

- ▶ According to the United States (US) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007*, domestic violence in Guyana is “widespread” (US 11 Mar. 2008, Sec. 5). At least one out of every three women in Guyana has reportedly been a victim of domestic violence (Radio Jamaica 13 June 2008; Help and Shelter n.d.a).
- ▶ Statistics released by the government of Guyana indicate that there were over 3,600 cases of domestic violence reported in 2007 as compared to 1,708 the previous year (*Guyana Chronicle* 12 June 2008; *Stabroek News* 12 June 2008). The largest increase was recorded in Berbice, where the number of reported cases rose from approximately 300 cases in 2006 to approximately 1,890 cases in 2007 (ibid.; *Guyana Chronicle* 12 June 2008).

# PERSONAL TESTIMONIALS:

## Domestic Violence Increase

- ▶ A woman who was chopped/bludgeoned in her head by her partner showed us the scars from her surgery.
- ▶ As a result of the attack, her speech was very slow and she took a while to process her thoughts. She is in speech therapy now.
- ▶ She came seeking assistance for her children and mentioned that this same man had pushed her in a drain while she was pregnant with the last child.
- ▶ She claimed she was leaving him for good after this incident.

# Domestic Violence and Suicides

- ▶ A woman who appeared to have no need to see the medical doctors waited patiently to tell us, very nonchalantly, that her husband hit her in her back with the broadside of a cutlass. She went to the police to make a report, and they sent her home saying they would meet her there shortly. They never came.
- ▶ This woman attempted suicide twice by trying to overdose on tablets. The first time she was taken to the hospital where she was told by a counselor that if she tries to kill herself again the counselor would call the police. The second time she attempted suicide a neighbor intervened.

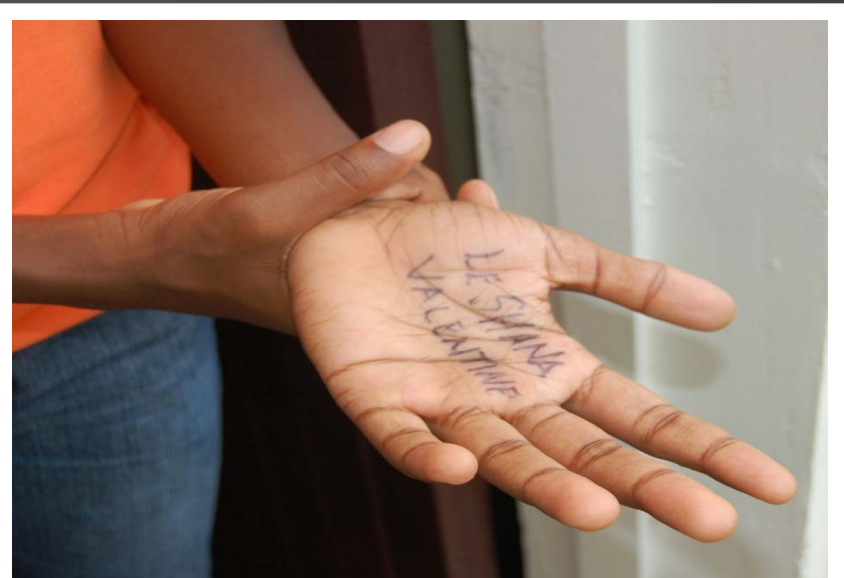


# Adult Care

- In Guyana, breast, cervical and colorectal cancers are the leading cancers among women.
- Prostate and stomach cancers are the main types in men.



## Adult Care



# Threats to Everyday Life in Guyana

## Vision Care:

Eye Testing, Screening for Cataract, Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy, Hypertension, and other eye abnormalities; blindness

## Domestic Violence



# Day Eleven: Joshua House

**79 + 20 = 99**



# JOSHUA HOUSE CHILDREN CENTRE

- ▶ Children, between the ages of 5 and 14 years, whose parents are unable to care for them, are provided with shelter and are taught sports.
- ▶ “Irregular working hours make it difficult for parents to provide adequate care for their children and, as a result, many are either left on their own or are cared for by extended family. The inability of the extended family network to cope in a time of poverty, migration, and AIDS is linked to growth in the number of AIDS orphans, street children living and working in the center of Georgetown as well as the number of children being placed in orphanages.”



DESKAN EDUCATORS: Crochet classes conducted by Deskan New Jersey team members Carlotta and Marcia Craig; Hair Care by Doreen Morgan; and Physical Activity by Esie



# Joshua House-Health Care Opportunities

## SAMPLE OF PATIENT POPULATION

8+5...

<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
<i>Short stature/micrognathia/cupped ears/urine musty odor</i>	<i>13 y/o</i>		<i>Evaluation needed for 2_hydroxyglutaricaciduria (inborn error of metabolism)</i>
Tinea versicolor/caries	8 y/o		Referral to village health center, vitamins
Caries		9 y/o	Referral to village health center, vitamins
Tinea capitis		8 y/o	Referral to village health center, vitamins
Severe caries		7 y/o	Referral to village health center, vitamins



# Joshua House Healthcare Opportunities

## 18+5+7=30

Diagnosis	Male	Female	Disposition
Marginal alopecia		5 y/o	Loosen hair braiding
Healed sores/lip mole		8 y/o	Monitor changes in mole
Fever		6 y/o	Environmental 99.5 AX
Cervical lymphadenopathy		7 y/o	Pediacare for pain/fever
Dermatitis		8 y/o	Cortaid
S/P MVA with scars; loose tooth		9 y/o	No tx necessary
Well adolescent	14 y/o		Anticipatory guidance

# Summary Highlight

- ▶ What made my mission more interesting was that my challenge was overcome knowing that the people of Queenstown were happy I could have given back to my community.
- ▶ I could not have written this report alone. I am indebted to all the patients in Queenstown and Ruimveldt who have helped me to serve them.

# VISION CARE



# Eye Care

- ▶ My colleague and I were asked to help with the eye care section.
- ▶ We saw patients with eye problems that were mainly caused by lifestyle choices. Out of the 138 patients we saw in Queenstown, only about 15% wore glasses to protect their eyes.
- ▶ Given that this area was mainly a farming community, more than 60% of the residents were exposed to the sun for prolonged periods.
- ▶ Added to that, more than 18% of the patients had health problems such as cataracts that escalated beyond normal proportions to the point of no return, where they were blinded in one or both eyes. Doctors refused to do surgery because of advancement of the cataracts.
- ▶ This experience made it clear to my colleague and me how necessary eye care education was because more than 60% of the ailments could have been prevented or cured if education were a priority.

# 300+ Reading Glasses Distributed in 2012

- ▶ Deskan distributed more than 300 reading glasses and countless frames to those who were not able to fill their prescription.
- ▶ When these patients retest their eyes, there will be no need to purchase glasses. Or the cost would be low because the patients now have frames.



# Clinic Chief's Record of Patients' Ailments:

## Elderly Adults and Young Adults

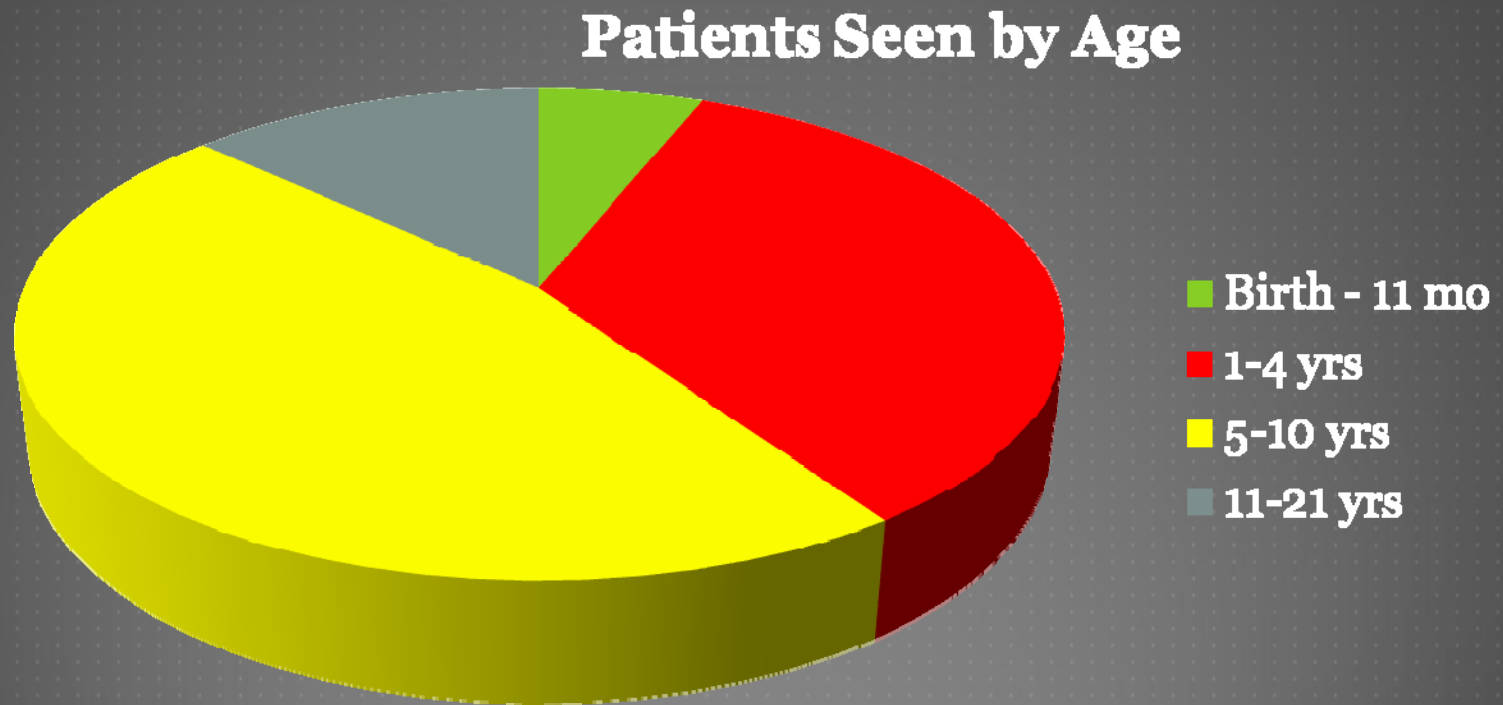
- ▶ 175 elderly patients ranging from ages 63-75 complained of Stroke, Heart Disease, Back Pain, Dematis, Dental Caries, Asthma and Diabetes.
- ▶ 65 adults from ages 51-59 complained of Diabetes and Vision problems, such as loss of vision in one eye, reading problems, inability to afford reading glasses, sugar problems, etc.
- ▶ 78 young adults to adults, aged 18-50 years, complained of Hypertension, Prostate Cancer, Cervical cancer, suicide, Fibroids, UTI/STI, Kidney problem, Liver Failure, COPD and Hemorrhoids.



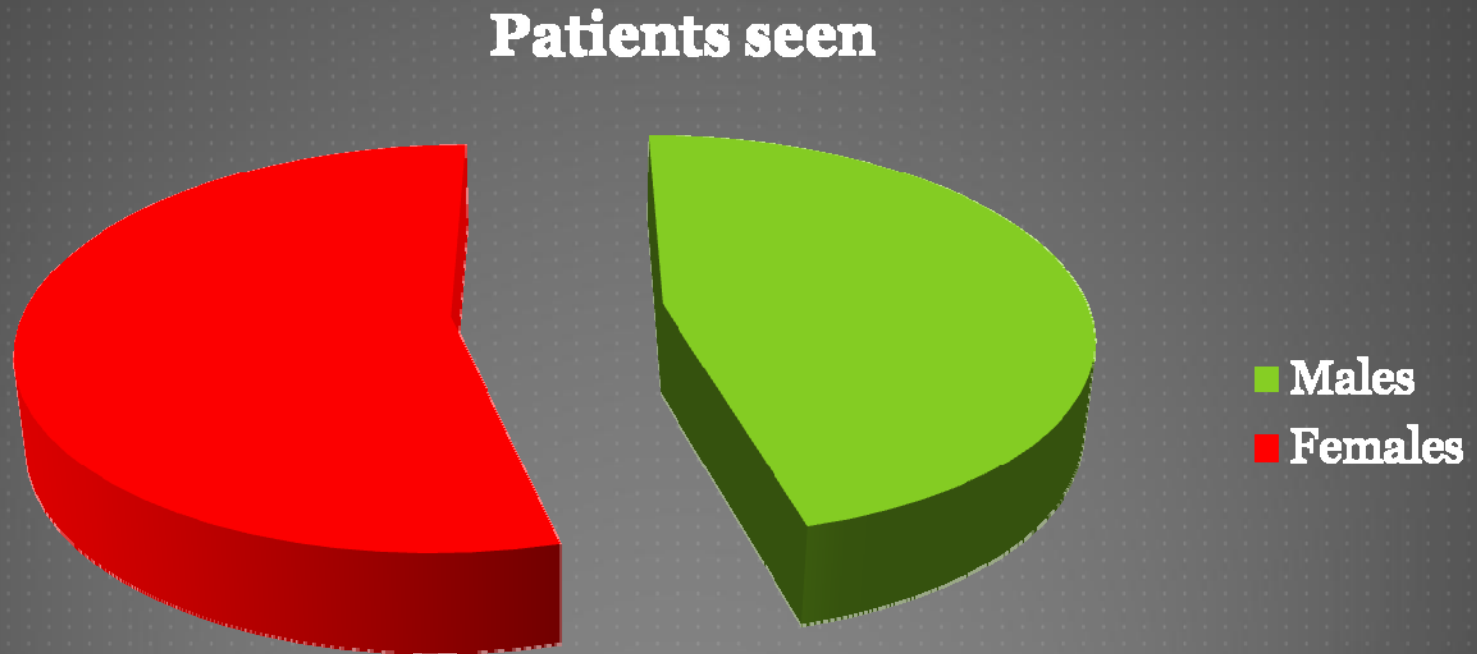
# **RECOMMENDATION: A Patient Satisfaction Survey to Address:**

- ▶ Why did you choose to come to this clinic today instead of going to the local health center?
- ▶ How far did you travel to get to clinic today?
- ▶ What mode of transportation did you use to get here?
- ▶ Were you happy with the service/treatment that you received?
- ▶ How long did you have to wait before you saw the doctor?
- ▶ Did you think that was too long to wait?
- ▶ Were all your needs addressed today? If not, what else would you have liked us to help you with?
- ▶ Would you like to talk to a health educator or counselor before you leave today?
- ▶ Have you ever received health education or counseling?
- ▶ Do you have any suggestions for how we can make this a better experience for you?
- ▶ If doctor refers you to the hospital for testing or follow up, do you intend to do it? Would it be easy for you to do?

# Summary of Pediatrics Patients



# Peds Number of Patients Seen



# Chief Complaints: Pediatric

## **Chief Complaint (Most frequent) (Other)**

- 1) Scabies/Impetigo      Allergic conjunctivitis
  - 2) Worms      Varicella
  - 3) Fungal skin infections      Headache
  - 4) Reproductive health (female) Asthma
  - 5) Occupational back pain      Foot deformity with pain
  - 6) Decreased appetite      Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
  - 7) Fever      Dehydration (mild)
  - 8) Upper Respiratory Infection Pharyngitis
  - 9) Sinusitis      Developmental Hip Dysplasia
  - 10) Strabismus History of kerosene ingestion
- Otitis externa  
Well Newborn

# Children: Giving in Queenstown

- ▶ Team Deskan provided an end-the-year school party for approximately 100 children.
- ▶ These children were selected by Deskan's Local Coordinator, Ms. Sharon Jones. Many of these children were on the honor roll for the region.





# GUYANA HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES

- ▶ The relatively limited training of the doctors in Guyana; a health care system still struggling to achieve legitimate professionalism and a sizable population of poorly educated patients whose destiny lie at the hands of the first two circumstances....a circle of life among the poor semi-literate masses
- ▶ Factors that contribute to the Human Trafficking Infrastructure - A high unemployment rate and poor economic conditions have contributed to the problem of prostitution and drug trafficking. Because Guyana is one of the poorest countries in the Caribbean, children work in agriculture, domestic service, sawmills, street vending, and textile factories. The number of street children, who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, is also increasing.

# Accomplishments

- What we attempted to give were the skills and up-to-date knowledge about the diseases prevalent in the West that are affecting their people and hope that an end would soon come for sexually transmitted diseases, diabetes, and AIDS.



# Many thanks to all who made this year's mission a success!

- ▶ Thanks to our sponsorship and shared collaboration of members in partnerships with Guyana Medical Relief, Inc, Los Angeles, CA; Georgia Lions Club, Direct Relief International, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Supporters from Atlanta, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Guyana, 2012
- ▶ Special thanks to Festival City Lions President and members for collaborative efforts in this mission; also, thanks to the many volunteers, such as Arleen Dinally, Leona Kyte, Patricia Dinally, Pastor Andy of Craig Village, Drs. Gwendolyn Dean, Susan Camacho, Precella Speid-Isaccs, Denise Tucker, Leandra Marks, Carlotta Craig, Marcia Craig, Quanesha Biggs, Doreen Morgan, Stacey Noble, Yonette Garnett, Eze, Antonette Hamer, Nikita Boston, Cyndi Marks, and nurses who did follow-up clinic in Georgetown and all others

# Thanks to our Journalist

- ▶ This mission would not have been accomplished without your hard work and commitment to serve others. Many thanks to our Photographer and Journalist, Mr. Charles Liverpool, for captioning all our mission's moves.
- ▶ Visit the Journalist at the upcoming "Masquerade Lives" symposium, which promises a stimulating experience.
- ▶ Visit also the following panels: "The Elders Reflect," "Renaissance: The Berbice Masquerade Story," "Tradition and Innovation," "Masquerade and Language," "Transnational Dimensions," and the Future of Masquerade" to be held at the Umana Yana on December 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ The symposium will feature workshops in dance, music, drum making, and image making at the National School of Dance, the National School of Music, and the Burrowes School of Art on December 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>.



# Thanks to Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

- ▶ In 2011, the Lighthouse served over 6,000 uninsured and low-income Georgians. Lighthouse services include full eye exam, eyes glasses, eye surgeries, digital hearing aids, vision and hearing screenings.
- ▶ Given the lack of available services, many Lighthouse patients have not had proper care for years. The average age of a Lighthouse patient is 55, and those in the hearing aid program are typically over the age of 65. Many clients have hypertension (49%) or diabetes (29%), two of the leading causes of blindness, making ongoing eye exams critical to preventative care.



# Thanks to Direct Relief International

- ▶ Direct Relief works to improve the health of people living in high-need areas by strengthening fragile health systems and increasing access to quality health care in 70 countries around the world.
- ▶ To achieve this goal, Direct Relief partners with local health providers, leading healthcare companies, and business leaders, to deliver medicines, medical supplies and equipment through transparent, reliable, and cost-effective channels.
- ▶ Mission would not have been possible without the much-needed medication.
- ▶ Direct Relief seeks to support existing health providers over the long term, delivering aid without regard to race, ethnicity, political or religious affiliations, or ability to pay. A partner of Guyana Medical Relief, International, CA.

# QUEENSTOWN CLINIC



Crafting, the Art of Crochet; Consultation Time

# QUEENSTOWN

- Why DESKAN Does What DESKAN Does



# Bridges 2012 Medical Mission to Guyana

## September 22—30, 2012

A group of about 30 medical and health professionals, including doctors, nurses, audiologist, mental health workers, peer educators and some local volunteers, will be participating in this effort.

Our focus will continue to be enhancing the current healthcare structure by providing free-standing clinics at Project Dawn, Fort Wellington Hospital and other outlying areas of Guyana.

Continuing Medical Education for local physicians and nurses will be held on the evening of September 28, 2012, at Georgetown Public Hospital Complex. Topics covered will be the management of congestive heart failure and ENT emergencies.





# Summary Points of 2012 Deskan Medical Mission to Guyana

- This year the Deskan Medical Mission Team of 17 healthcare professionals from USA, England, Canada, Trinidad, Barbados, and Guyana treated over 900 Guyanese patients.
- The mission assists Guyana's Ministry of Health to strengthen a decentralized primary health care program that faces serious economic, material and human resource shortages.
- Volunteers work directly with health centers in **Regions 4, 5 and 6** and other communities to help them identify local and national resources, facilitate community health assessments, design and implement health education projects, and train health center staff and community leaders.
- The Continuing Health Education CHATs addressed high numbers of heart attacks and neonatal incidences of HIV/AIDS in the country and focuses its efforts on breast, cervical and prostate cancer, diabetic shock/insulin overdose, increase of suicide in adolescents under 18 years of age, and hearing loss in children.
- Volunteers work in a coordinated effort with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as VYC, the Amerindian Youth Group Guyana Outreach Organization, and many churches in Guyana, Canada and UK to address these health concerns.
- Deskan forged new partnerships with other missionary organizations working in Guyana on the same or similar goals.



# Summary of 2012 Mission

- ▶ Volunteers worked with youth organizations and the Ministry of Education to provide at-risk youth with educational, personal and life skills development opportunities, and thus enable these youth to meet the challenges of adolescence and contribute positively to their communities.
- ▶ Through Train-the -Trainer activities, Deskan Institute and Training collaborated with DESKAN BRIDGES 2012 to offer CME and CEU and to work with educators on non-traditional teaching methods and life-skills training methodologies.

# Summary of 2012 Mission Cont'd

- ▶ The team consisted of 4 nurses, 3 doctors, 2 social workers, 1 HIV/AIDS educator, 1 document specialist, 2 medical students, 1 pharmacy technician, 1 crochet specialist, 1 MPH student, 1 dental health student, and several volunteers.
- ▶ We served residents in Georgetown Lion's Club in South Ruimveldt and in Queenstown.
- ▶ Need for vision care, dental care, and nutrition education
- ▶ Crochet classes conducted by Deskan New Jersey team members
- ▶ Carlotta and Marcia Craig: A wonderful and much need activity for the Guyanese Children and Youths.

# Mission 2012, Possible & Completed



**Join us in July 2013 for Conference and Follow-up Clinic!**