Red Cross volunteers respond to Region 9 Floods!

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Humanity in Action!

“Doing more, Doing better, Reaching further”
Red Cross Volunteers in Lethem respond to floods

Region 9 (Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) in June was severely affected by flood waters. Red Cross Volunteers in the region were able to respond immediately by assisting in evacuating over 40 families, placing sand bags in offices to stop flood waters, conducting assessments and aiding in relief distributions.

Flood waters ranged between 1.5 to 6 feet high, causing much damage. Many roads were under water and bridges were washed away. Getting relief supplies from Georgetown was a difficult task.

Red Cross Volunteers distributed collapsible jerry cans, treated mosquito nets, hygiene kits, boots, relevant hygiene and water and sanitation posters and pamphlets sent in by the GRCS Headquarters.
RC continues to strengthen capacities within communities -

Speaking at the launch, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, performing the duties of President, said he was pleased with the Red Cross focus as the hinterland is often overlooked by persons in the city. He said that the water and sanitation project feeds well with other projects the government has initiated in the region.

Suparna Bera, WATSAN Project Coordinator said “the project will serve 6,400 Amerindians (over a 45 month period) by improving their access to safe drinking water by increasing the region’s capacity for water storage. It will also enhance the hygiene knowledge and practices of the residents by disseminating messages of environmental management and cleanliness through various schools and community based promotional activities.”

Ambassador of the European Union (EU), to Guyana, Geert Heikens said that “the water and sanitation project will contribute significantly to the development and the wealth of Guyana. He said that the water and sanitation in hinterland communities are well linked and the EU is happy to contribute to the project.”

On Wednesday June 22, 2011, the GRCS launched its Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR) and its Improved Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for Hinterland Communities (Phase II) (WATSAN) Projects at the Headquarters in Barrack Street Kingston, Georgetown.

Prime Minister, Mr. Samuel Hinds (acting President) attended as well as representatives from several governmental ministries and EU Ambassador - Geert Heilen.

Guyana, is one three countries (Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana) was selected in coordination with IFRC based on past and planned activities related to disaster preparedness across the region. The project is geared to target 15 communities (a total of 45 communities) over a 3 year period. Project Coordinator Pryia Rai in her presentation, noted that “the project will enable people living in vulnerable communities to understand the potential risks in their environment and adopt behaviours that make their homes safer and prepare for disasters”.

This CCRDR (Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk Project is headed by Canadian Delegate Heather Fher, whose office is housed at the GRCS Headquarters. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Canadian Red Cross with financial support from the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Left to right: Xavier Zimmerman - FRC Delegate WATSAN Project, Dorothy Fraser - Secretary General GRCS, Teni Housty - GRCS Board, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, Haether Fehr - CRC Delegate CCRDR Project, Geert Heilen - EU Ambassador, Suparna Bera - Projector Cordinator WATSAN and Pryia Rai - Projector COrdinator CCRDR.
Youth spreads RC messages

Following a demonstration on how first aid techniques can save lives, students were excited about being Red Cross Youth Members.

The Kross Kolors Annual School Show is an opportunity for youth to be entertained by Guyanese Artistes at a minimal cost. The GRCS is always a part of this event by providing first responders; as well as exhibiting its programmes and activities.

Written by: Travis Changlee, GRCS Volunteer.

Saturday May 08, GRCS youth volunteers were a part of the Kross Kolors Annual School Show at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall.

RC Youth took this opportunity to talk about the birth of the International Red Cross, since this day marked the anniversary of the Red Cross.

Brochures, magazines, books, disaster response kits and first aid kits were on display.

Scores of youth from Secondary Schools in and out Georgetown were enthused and educated about the Red Cross and its various programmes.

More about your health - RC Fundamentals of Health

Melisa Alstrom, Lecturer of Fundamentals of Health explains - “this enables persons to prepare for a health career and also to learn more about healthier lifestyles as well being able to share the facts learnt.” She also noted that “the feedback received from students is even sometimes amazing and encourages me to keep being a part of RC Health Courses.” She says “you can even register for this course just for the fun or learning new things and facts about your body.”

Did you know that the GRCS offers courses other than First Aid and CPR? Well the GRCS offers a course called Fundamentals of Health. This course is a three month course and is offered three times a year.

First Aid is a pre-requisite to the this course. Fundamentals of health covers topics on Healthy Lifestyles, Weight Management, Nutrition, Abuse, HIV and Aids, etc. Students on more than one occasion register for this course as a means of preparing for a Nursing or pharmaceutical career.
More Blood, More Life!

GRCS celebrated World Blood Donor Day on June 14, by presenting tokens of appreciation to those who continuously promote its monthly drives and to those who are committed to being voluntary unpaid donors. These special persons included Ms Deionne Davidson who was named Blood Donor Recruiter for the 2010/2011, Ansa Mcal Trading for their generous support towards monthly blood drives, radio and television stations (MTV Channel 65, NCNRadio 98.1 hot fm and BTV Channel 2) as well as its personalities — Abigail Wade, Casual Armstrong and Mondale Smith, respectively.

Special donors like Mrs. Jennifer Lewis and Ms Dynutha Adonis received 5 and 10 unit pins, respectively marking the number of units they have donated to date.

This year’s WBDD theme “Paint the World Red, More Blood, More Life”, specifically encourages us all to be conscious of the continuous need for voluntary donors to remain committed, and to recruit new donors from all communities. **GRCS would like to thank you for your life saving gift of blood!**

Mr Troy Cadogan from Ansa McAl receives token from RC Team.

Staff of MTV Chl 65 receives Certificate of Appreciation from RC Team.

Mondale Smith of BTV Chl 2 receives Certificate of Appreciation.

Mr Paul Moore from NCN Radio 98.1 hot fm receives Certificate of Appreciation.

Abigail Wade of MTV Chl 65 receives Certificate of Appreciation.

### You can help to save lives either by being a voluntary blood donor or by recruiting donors!

Please visit the Guyana Red Cross Society Blood Drive on the 2nd Tuesday of every month or National Blood Transfusion Service.
Ten special needs’ schools benefited from the GRCS “Be Safe!” Violence Prevention Programme in June. The two day training with held at the National Centre for Educational Research Development (NCERD) building on June 29 and 30, 2011. Teachers came as far as from Linden and New Amsterdam to be part of the training.

Mrs. Ingrid Peters, a visually impaired teacher from St. John’s College in Georgetown noted, “special needs children are more vulnerable than we imagine, these are the ones who are unable to communicate to us adults or their parents and peers in a normal way, so they need to be taught how to be safe.” Mrs. Peters teaches music and history.

Mrs. Karen Williams, President of the Guyana Greenheart Autistic Society, the lady who requested the training of the “special needs teachers” in the “Be Safe” Programme, explained, “this programme really shed light on areas I have not even really thought of, but I know exist. I was attending another workshop, where I was able to get a preview of this programme and thought our children needed this as well. Thank you Guyana Red Cross.”

Teachers will now use the “Be Safe!” kits given to them from the GRCS, to work with the children in their schools.

Fun with our Seniors

GRCS Seniors’ Group of Central Georgetown held their Annual Hat Show in April 2011. The ladies came out in their numbers with beautifully decorated hats. Hats were decorated with bright flowers, Easter eggs and bunnies. Each lady modeled their hat and at the end prizes were given for best decorated hats.
News from Children’s Convalescent Home

Little excited faces and happy feet trampled on the floors of the Red Cross Children’s Convalescent Home, when interns from Republic Bank visited them for playtime and to hand over gifts of hygiene supplies, milk and educational items.

Administrator Mr. Ewin Enmore, noted that “the children are always excited to see new faces and it also gives the outsiders a real understanding of the day to day lives of the children living at the home. We are always appreciative of the generous donations received since the home depends on donor support.”

Students of the Natural Sciences Faculty of the University of Guyana also ventured on a group project to provide branded pajamas for the children. "We are pleased to have done this for the children of your home. By executing this project we hope that we brought the children some joy and that it will have an echo effect throughout their lives. All along we were aiming to make them feel special and loved through this small act of giving”, Vanessa Graham, Production Assistant of PI Express explained.

Gifts from donors

In picture left– Mrs. Norma Hamilton (front row left) receives beautifully decorated place mats from students of the Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute, London Ontario Canada.

Each year students in the upper school are required to take one World Citizenship course. The courses, from Grade 7/8 to Grade 12 respectively, are: Virtues, Justice & Service, Individual & Family Living, World Religions, Issues in Human Growth & Development, and Challenge & Change in Society.

William Neal, Vice President of the Institution (front row far right) explained that this year the world citizenship tours comprised of students from Canada, USA, Mexico, Japan and Trinidad and Tobago. While in Guyana, they visited St. Cuthbert’s Mission and the Children’s Convalescent Home. GRCS extends heartfelt appreciation.

In picture left, Mrs Norma Hamilton along with the GRCS team receive gifts of clothing and other items from the JCI (Junior Chamber International).

Junior Chamber International (JCI) has been active in Guyana for the past 45 years, assisting young people in several communities.

The GRCS would like to extend a grand thank you!
UPCOMING EVENTS:

⇒ Look out for activities on the CCRDR Project in July/August.
 ⇒ International Youth Day Activity - August.
 ⇒ World First Aid Activity - September.
 ⇒ GRCS Annual Dinner & Dance - September 10th, Contact Anna Lisa for tickets on 623-8763.
 ⇒ Blood Drives 2nd Tuesday of every month (Aug 9th)
 ⇒ Blood Drive at Gizmos & Gadgets (Aug 24th)

Volunteer Orientation

4th Wednesday (3pm) of each month, call 226-5174 to register.

“Improving the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the Power of Humanity.”

PO Box 10524, Georgetown, Guyana.
XX Barrack Street, Kingston, Georgetown.
Tel: (592) 226-5174
Email: guyanaredcross@yahoo.com

New Faces

Heather Fehr
Canadian Red Cross Delegate for the Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR) Project.

Vedant James
Regional Finance/Administrative Officer Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR) Project.

Michael Blackman
GRCS Finance Officer Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR) Project.

Dexter Ceres
Driver Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR) Project.

Xavier Zimmermann
Head of Delegation for French Red Cross “Improved water, Sanitation & Hygiene Conditions for Hinterland Communities” in Region 1.

WELCOME!!!!