



# Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation



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## Press Release

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### **DONATION MADE TO BURN CARE UNIT**

The Burn Care Unit of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) today received a significant contribution from the Guyana Burn & Healthcare Charitable Foundation, Inc, Canada.

The donation included two complete computer workstations for the Nursing Services Office and the Burn Care Unit; US\$15,000 to purchase bedside monitors for the Unit and the handing over of a Training, Policy and Procedure Manual to be used as a guideline in the unit.

In addition, the Foundation also organized a four-day workshop for nurses, counselors, social workers, patient care advocates and volunteers in the area of Physiological Care. The workshop focuses on the Reintegration into the Community of Burn Care victims after severe physical or emotional trauma.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony this morning, President of the Foundation Mr. Harry Harakh reiterated the foundation's commitment to ensuring that the Burn Care Unit continues to function efficiently.

He said that the Policy and Procedure Manual was developed based on the hospital's needs and vetted by Ms. Judy Kingston, Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Sunnybrook Ross Tilley Burn Unit, Canada. The manual will be used as a source of information and training for the nurses.

Some of the topics covered in the manual include Renal Function, Nutrition, Skin Graft Management, Rehabilitation Care, Circulatory Function and Wound Care Management.

He added that should it become necessary, plans will be put in place for the GPHC to receive a subscription to the American Burn Care Association.

Starting today, twenty-five nurses, social workers and counselors from the GPHC and West Demerara Regional Hospital are being trained to work with burn care victims to reintegrate them into their communities.

The purpose of the reintegration programme is to assist people who have suffered burns to develop a personal strength despite weaknesses in overt physical attributes and to set up a support system that would provide them with the encouragement to build and keep a strong esteem in the future.

Topics to be covered over the four-day period include Role of depression and other psychological disorders; concept of self esteem; the role of change in creating unpredictable and unique problems; How to build self esteem in people with a disfigurement and how to determine what they need, among others.

The two experts in Psychological Care are Dr. Albert De Goias and his partner, Ms. Andrea Hubai, a therapist. The two operate a private practice in Canada and has volunteered their services for the four day workshop. The workshop is being held at the Foreign Services Institute, South Road, Bourda.

The Foundation has been instrumental in the establishment of the Burn Care Unit at the GPHC which opened in 2002. In 2000, the Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) to build and equip a functional burn care unit.

Following a successful fundraising campaign in 2001, the Foundation shipped materials for the building of the Burn Care Unit which included glass panels, doors, specialized ceiling tiles, beds, monitors and suction pumps.

In 2002, Judy Kingston, Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Sunnybrook Ross Tilley Burn Unit began nursing education of local nurses, while conducting monthly visits prior to the opening of the Burn Care Unit. Nursing educational materials and videos were developed.

The foundation has continued to collaborate with the hospital by providing continuing education in burn treatment education to local nurses, keeping them abreast with the latest technologies and strategies for patient care and providing specialized equipment or upgrading existing ones as needed.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Michael Khan added that every donation the hospital receives goes towards improving the lives of the patients. He said that the GPHC has a partnership that is more than five years old with the Foundation and he is looking forward to the strengthening of the relationship.

He said that six additional bedside monitors will be purchased for the Burn Care Unit.

Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Audrey Corry said that the donation is a blessing which will go a long way in improving the services of the Burn Care Unit. She commended Mr. Harakh and his foundation for their work which has significantly improved the level of treatment burn care victims receive.

According to Mrs. Corry, patients are now more comfortable with their surroundings since they are no longer housed in the respective Surgical Wards and nurses are able to deliver better treatment and care.

She said that over the years the Burn Care Unit has been operational, the Foundation has been delivering on the promises made to assist in every possible way.

Mrs. Corry added that it is important to note that that they have also been actively involved in training staff of that unit which is critical.

Present at the ceremony yesterday was Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana Mr. Charles Court, Secretary of the Guyana Burn & Healthcare Charitable Foundation Inc, Mrs. Pamela Harakh and other senior staff of the hospital.

The Burn Care Unit was officially opened in November 2002.



**Caption for attached photograph**

**Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana Mr. Charles Court presents the Policy and Procedure Manual to Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Audrey Corry. Looking on are CEO Mr. Michael Khan and President of the Guyana Burn & Healthcare Charitable Foundation Inc, Mr. Harry Harakh.**