

GUYANA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

Date established	8 th October 1955
Date and type of registration	Enactment of Parliament. Ordinance 1955
Primary contact person	Petrina Bispat, Secretary
Address, telephone and email	Guyana Society for the Blind 46 High Street, St. Phillips Green, Georgetown.
Secondary contact person	Mr. Cecil Morris, Board Member and past president
Address, telephone and email	Same as above
Number of active members	52
Number of paid staff	1 Part-time
Number of regular volunteers	5
Estimated annual budget	
Main sources of funding	Annual Government Subvention Fund raising exercises Donation from various agencies
Geographic scope of activity	Georgetown.

Mission or primary goal of your organization:

To educate and train members. To provide employment for members.

Main subject areas of activity or programmes

- x Economic/income generation
- x Social services/welfare
- x Counselling
- x Disabled

Major projects in last two years, including current projects

Project #1 Name/Goal	<u>Providing Low Vision Services</u>
Start date	August 2001
End date	September 2002
<u>Main activities</u>	Person suffering from low vision are seen by a specialist at the Georgetown Hospital and low vision devices are given in order for the person to be helped as is possible.
Main source(s) of funding	1. Building Capacity Community Project. 2. Government of Japanese - Grassroots. 3. Caribbean Council for the Blind. Government of Guyana.
Project partners	1. Building Capacity Community Project. 2. Government of Japanese - Grassroots. 3. Caribbean Council for the Blind. Government of Guyana.

Geographic scope Country wide
Results of Project Currently the Georgetown Hospital has undertaken the responsibility of the continuity of the project.

Project #2 Name/Goal

Advanced Cookery

Main activities

This was a follow up course that was previously done with the Adult Education on an introduction to cookery.

1. Under the Guidance of tutor Mrs. Y. Simon of the YWCA the women were involved in the actual preparation of meals.
2. The Women had practice in setting the places at the table.
3. Lectures on etiquette were also done.

Main source(s) of funding

Young Women Christian Association, Guyana Society for the Blind.

Project partners

Guyana Society For The Blind and The Young Women's Christian Association.

Geographic scope

Members of the Morning Glory Women's Club of the Society.

Results of Project

Twenty-five members of the Morning Glory Club completed the programme and were awarded certificates of participation by the YWCA.

Project #3 Name/Goal

Micro- Enterprise Development.

Start date

Aim: To assist members who had obtained small loans to an introduction to business and its operations.

End date

March 21, 2002

Main activities

May 30, 2002

The main activities consisted mainly of lectures from resource persons who had volunteered their time. The course was organised and directed by Mr. T Anson Sancho, a Board Member after members expressed an interest in the setting up of their own small businesses.

Main source(s) of funding

Thirty persons completed the programme and were given Certificates of Participation at a graduation exercise held on December 5, 2002.

Geographic scope

Guyana Society For The Blind

Results of Project

Members of the Society and their families.

Thirty persons received Certificates. To Date four persons who took part in the course were able to secure small loans from an organization and are currently engaged in economic activities.

Major projects planned for at least next two years

Project #1 Name/Goal	<u>Tied-dying Course. Empowering the visually impaired.</u>
Start date	February 11 2004
<u>Main activities</u>	This is a small project organised by the women themselves and is consisted of ten weeks of practical exercises in the tying of material and t-shirts and the dying of same. At the end of the exercise the women plan to hold an exhibition and sale of work.
Main source(s) of funding	Morning Glory Women's Club.
Project partners	None
Geographic scope	Members of the Society.
Results of Project	By the end of the project members will have learn a new craft, which they would be able to use for economic benefit.

Project #2 Name/Goal	<u>Block Making Project.</u>
	To provide training in a new and innovative skills thereby economically empowering members to become involved in activities that could be of future economic benefit to themselves.
Start date	None
End date	None
<u>Main activities</u>	Mainly Practical session in Cement Mixing and Block making.
Main source(s) of funding	This project was submitted to Omai Gold Mines which had indicated an interest in providing funding for a project.
Project partners	Undetermined
Geographic scope	Members of the Society
Results of Project	At the completion of the Project it is expected that there would be an increased number of Blind and Visually Impaired persons becoming gainfully employed.

Networking

What other NGOs would you like to share information with or collaborate with in your activities?

1. Guyana Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
2. Community Based Rehabilitation Programme.
3. Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association