

## VARQA FOUNDATION

Date established	1990
Date and type of registration	Friendly Society 2000
Primary contact person	Dr. O'Toole, Chairman
Address, telephone and email	120 Parade Street, Kingston, Georgetown 226-7870/227-4623 <a href="mailto:bjotoole9@hotmail.com">bjotoole9@hotmail.com</a>
Secondary contact person	Delmar Donnelly
Address, telephone and email	Same as above
Number of active members	4 persons on Board + 20 volunteers
Number of paid staff	1 full time, 1 part-time
Number of regular volunteers	20
Estimated annual budget	US\$20,000.
Main sources of funding	UNICEF, CIDA, IADB, OSED, Bahai World Centre (Israel)
Geographic scope of activity	All

### Mission or primary goal of your organization:

*To work in the areas of literacy, HIV/AIDS, youth leadership and basic education.*

### Main subject areas of activity or programmes

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| x HIV/AIDS             | x Education/training |
| x Culture and art      | x Counselling        |
| x Student/youth issues | x Women's issues     |
| x Violence             |                      |

Other: Care and support – facilitation of HIV testing.

### Major projects in last two years, including current projects

<b>Project #1 Name/Goal</b>	<b><u>Youth Can Move the World</u></b> – promote youth leadership in key social areas.
<b>Start date</b>	Yearly since 1998
<b>End date</b>	
<b><u>Main activities</u></b>	Train youths over a 70 hour module to examine issues of women to their age group. Youths then return to their communities and take their peers through the same 70 hours training. Extensive use of the arts in communicating key messages.
<b>Main source(s) of funding</b>	CIDA, UNICEF, IADB
<b>Project theme or sector</b>	Youth HIV/AIDS violence
<b>Project partners</b>	Help & Shelter, Lifeline Counselling, NCRC.

**Geographic scope** All regions.  
**Results of Project** See evaluation done by Karen Brooks (2003) for her Masters. Thesis at the University of Michigan.

**Project #2 Name/Goal** **On the Wings of Words** – promotion of literacy.  
**Start date** 1996  
**End date**  
**Main activities** Volunteers from the community trained in ways to promote the literacy skills of children and youth. Extensive training materials have been produced.  
**Main source(s) of funding** CIDA, Guyana Book Foundation, German Embassy.  
**Project theme or sector** Literacy.  
**Project partners** Guyana Book Foundation.  
**Geographic scope** All.  
**Results of Project** See evaluation of project by Audaye for Guyana Book Foundation.

## Major projects planned for at least next two years

**Project #1 Name/Goal** **Continuation of Youth Can Move the World.**  
**Start date** January 2004  
**End date** July 2004  
**Main activities** As above.  
**Main source(s) of funding** IADB  
**Project theme or sector** Youth Leadership, HIV/AIDS.  
**Project partners** As above  
**Geographic scope** All  
**Results of Project**

**Project #2 Name/Goal** **Continuation of On the Wings of Words.**  
**Start date** February 2004  
**End date** August 2004  
**Main activities** As before.  
**Main source(s) of funding** Mainly coastal.  
**Project theme or sector**  
**Project partners**  
**Geographic scope**  
**Results of Project**

## Networking

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

1. Any working in the field of literacy/youth issues/HIV/AIDS.