

## VOLUNTEER YOUTH CORPS

Date established	14 <sup>th</sup> December 1996
Date and type of registration	GT-96-003 under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Primary contact person	Goldie Scott, Chairperson (ag)
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Secondary contact person	Leona Kyte, Secretary
Address, telephone and email	As above
Number of active members	25
Number of paid staff	6 full time staff
Number of regular volunteers	18 persons
Estimated annual budget	
Main sources of funding	USAID, UNESCO, UNICEF, Japan Government, International fundraisers, Internal income generation, Local Funders
Geographic scope of activity	Region 6 – Corentyne, Berbice, Region 4- Georgetown

### Mission or primary goal of your organization:

“To make a positive contribution to the development of Guyana through providing young people with opportunities, skills and competencies which are necessary for self-empowerment.”

*Under the theme: “Caring For Humanity” The Volunteer Youth Corps set its primary objectives as being:*

- *To provide support to persons hospitalised*
- *To advance the cause, for a better Health Sector*
- *To provide an organisation in Guyana that protects, enhances and co-ordinates activities that will benefit the country’ Health and Social sectors*

### Main subject areas of activity or programmes

x	Health	x
	HIV/AIDS	
x	Education/training	x
	Environment	
x	Counselling	x
	Student/youth issues	
x	Advocacy	x
	Employment	

Other: Adult Mentorship of children and young people with Business ideas  
Workplace policy on HIV/AIDS

# Major projects in last two years, including current projects

**Project #1 Name/Goal**  
**Start date**

**Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth Project**

Late 1999

**End date**

**Main activities**

- *Measure the extent to which targeted populations (Political, Sport, religious and Social organisations) are actively responding to HIV/AIDS in the context of the Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth project and through their own efforts.*
- *Provide technical and financial support to groups of youth so that these organisations can better implement project activities*
- *Actively engage Limers in prevention efforts*
- *Strengthen the competences of peer educators*
- *To increase advocacy efforts through outreach to hard to reach groups*
- *To engage the 8 – 14 years target group of the Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth Project as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters in School Mentorship programme.*
- *Provide Technical support in developing and implementing of workplace policy and programmes on HIV/AIDS.*
- *To facilitate access to care and support for People Living With HIV/AIDS.*
- *To strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of VYC through systematically exposing project management personnel to technical training.*

*In addition:*

- *Peer Education at Volunteer Youth Corps*  
*The VYC's peer education programme is a major component of VYC's HIV/AIDS Strategy aimed at providing comprehensive information and education to our diverse target group particularly young people between the ages of 8 – 25 years. The peer education efforts of VYC are segmented into two distinct components:*
- *A corps of Senior Peer Educators*
  - *A corps of Junior Peer Educators*

*Senior Peer Educators*

*Senior Peer Educators play a significant role in the implementation of VYC's strategy and outreach to organised groups of youth. Senior Peer Educators are young, more experienced volunteers who are provide varied technical assistance to organised groups, agencies and institutions.*

*As a key implementing agency of the Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth Project, VYC executes an advocacy component of the project with organised groups from four sectors*

- *Religious/Faith Based*
- *Political*
- *Social*
- *Private Sector*

**Main source(s) of funding**

USAID

**Project theme or sector**

Ready Body, Is it Really Ready

**Project partners**

- Youth Challenge Guyana
  - Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
  - Artistes In Direct Support
  - Hope Foundation
  - G plus
  - Comforting Hearts
  - Linden Care Foundation
  - National AIDS Secretariat
- and several organised youth groups

## Geographic scope

Region 4, 6 and 10

## Results of Project

Among the NYC accomplishments in the Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth project are:

Success in recruiting religious, political and social clubs as auxiliary implementers of the project.

Significant outreach to young people in organised setting in three regions of Guyana; Region 6, Region 4 and Region 10.

Consistent outreach and involvement of youth in unorganised setting in the work of the project through visits to popular youth spots and "youth communities"

Consistent dissemination of behavioural change communication information through workshops, print and electronic media to young people.

Developed strategy for younger youth in the form of Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programme.

Intervention in the World of Work as is the case of training Peer Educators Trainers in the Guyana Sugar Corporation, Guyana's single largest employer.

Advocacy with Private Sector, Religious Community and Government. Bi annual newsletter.

## Project #2 Name/Goal

Guyana Information Youth project

## Start date

21<sup>st</sup> February 2002

## End date

On-going

## Main activities

1. Guidance sessions conducted daily at the secretariat from 17:00hrs - 20:00hrs

2. Mentoring activities which are ongoing between the mentor and mentee and takes place at the mentor's convenience in consultation with the budding entrepreneur

3. Reporting; the project coordinator prepares quarterly reports for the sponsors, project team and all other relevant parties.

4. Monitoring and evaluation done by project coordinator and director, tutors and mentors at relevant intervals.

5. Design and update of a website for project and posting of all project related activities

6. Redesigning; a redesign workshop is held every six months or at the discretion of the project team to take into account the successes and challenges of the programme and the micro-enterprise situation in Guyana with a view to developing and enacting a plan of action to address and correct the project deficiencies

## Main source(s) of funding

UNESCO (for pilot year); Local Fundraisers

## Project theme or sector

Guyana Information Youth Project (GIYP)

## Project partners

The Project Collaborates with the following agencies:

1. The two major micro-financing institutions in Guyana namely: Scotia Enterprise and Institute for Private Enterprise Development

2. USAID through the GEO mechanism for technical assistance

3. Ministry of Culture Youth & Sports

Guyana Manufacturers Association

4. Peace Corps Guyana

5. Guyana Forum For Lifelong Learning

6. The Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce has adopted the project as the organisations' official Youth Business Affiliate

## Geographic scope

Region 4

## Results of Project

### To date the project has accomplished the following:

The project has trained only one batch of participants and the statistics stand at:

20% established small businesses

40% expanded their scope of business

20% provided employment opportunities for additional youths

30% gained employment

20% did not participate in the training programme

N.B. From programme inauguration to present over 5000 youth have benefited from the usage of the IT equipment

1000 young people utilised the photocopying services offered

500 youth utilised the resource center

## Project #3 Name/Goal

### Hotline Management

This project seeks to target members of the Guyanese population between the ages of 8-30.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To train 40 person from three (3) rural communities in Guyana as HIV/AIDS Telephone counsellors by January 2003.
- To provide Telephone Counselling and Referral Service to young people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS.
- To provide counselling to People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) and to protect them from discrimination due to the stigma that surrounds the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- To provide training with some focus on other areas such as Substance Abuse, Suicide, Drug Abuse, Homicide and Abuse to the 40 persons mentioned above.

#### Start date

November 2002

#### End date

January 2003

#### Main activities

- Trained 40 persons in three (3) rural communities in Hotline Management

Among some of the program activities includes:

#### PROGRAMME CONTENT

##### 1. Basic Skills

- Crisis Theory
- The Switzer Model
- Active Listening
- Active Listening Skills
- Reflecting feelings
- Exploring alternatives
- Closing calls

##### 2.

##### Specialized Topics

- Confidentiality
- Active Callers
- Sex Callers
- Suicidal Callers
- Homicide and Euthanasia
- Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Substance Use and Abuse
- Psychosis and Hysteria

##### 3.

##### HIV/AIDS

- HIV/AIDS information
- HIV Testing
- HIV/AIDS callers
- Common HIV Referrals
- Hypochondria
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Tuberculosis and Hepatitis

##### 4.

##### Role Plays

- Role-plays are done so that participants may have an opportunity to act different scenarios, so that they can become comfortable when situations arise while answering the hotlines.

##### 5.

##### Games

- Are geared to help participants to share their knowledge with each other and to test their knowledge.
- They are done to make training fun, especially when dealing with stressful subjects.

#### Main source(s) of funding

UNICEF

#### Project theme or sector

#### Project partner

## Geographic scope

Linden, Bartica and Essequibo

## Results of Project

- Forty Trained Peer Hotline Counsellors in Linden, Bartica and Essequibo

## Project #3 Name/Goal

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guyana (BBBSG) In-Schools Mentoring Program**

**Goal:** *To develop a Professional Mentorship Programme for children and youth between the ages of 8 –19 in Guyana, who are disadvantaged, “at-risk” and or affected by HIV/AIDS.*

#### **Start date**

*Attained the level of “Program in Formation” in 2003*

#### **End date**

*Indefinite*

## **Main activities- Pilot project**

- 1) *To provide mentors and role models for the children or youth of single parents between the ages of 8 to 19 years in the formal school system who are disadvantaged, at-risk or affected by HIV/AIDS in Region 4 Guyana.*
- 2) *To establish and develop a trusting relationship between a caring adult and a disadvantaged child or youth thereby creating a safe environment for positive interaction.*
- 3) *To aid and inspire a child or youth with his/her academic work so as to enable them to attain their highest potential.*
- 4) *To facilitate and foster a good relationship between the child/youth in their own home and school environment through support, encouragement and effective communication thereby enabling them to develop and maintain positive value systems.*

## **Main source(s) of funding**

USAID; International Fundraisers

## **Project theme or sector**

“Shaping our Children for the Future”

## **Programme partners**

*BBBSG have no Partners, however we are networked with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Services & Social Security, University of Guyana and Private Sector Organizations – all of whom have representatives on the BBBSG Advisory Board*

## **Geographic scope**

Initially in Region 4, but will ultimately be extended to the other Regions

## **Results of Project**

It is hoped that this programme will serve to:

- To reduce the number of early dropouts.*
- To reduce the rate of students truancy.*
- To help the students to deal with crisis management.*
- To help the child/youth to fulfil their highest potential.*
- To improve the academic achievement of the student.*
- To improve general classroom behaviour and attitudes of children.*

## **Major projects planned for at least next two years**

### **Programme #1 Name:**

**Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth project**

### **Start date**

on-going

### **End date**

on-going

## **Main activities**

- *To evaluate the achievements of Volunteer Youth Corps's HIV/AIDS/STIs intervention in the context of the Guyana STI/HIV/AIDS Youth Project*
- *To solidify and strengthen VYC's network of Peer Educators*
- *To solidify and strengthen the partnership of organisations working with VYC to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS*
- *To develop a permanent hotline*
- *Establish a Youth Friendly Voluntary Counselling and Testing site for youth*
- *To strengthen the counselling services of the VYC*
- *To continuously support, monitor and evaluate organisations with which advocacy efforts were initiated.*
- *Provide a Youth Friendly Drop in Centre especially for Limers*

## **Main source(s) of funding**

USAID

## **Project theme or sector**

## **Project partners**

Youth Challenge Guyana

- Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
- Lifeline
- Artistes In Direct Support
- Hope Foundation
- G plus
- Comforting Hearts
- Linden Care Foundation
- National AIDS Secretariat

## **Geographic scope**

Region 4, 6 and 10

## **Results of Project**

- *A launch network of youth working on HIV/AIDS Peer Education*
- *A monthly forum for representatives of VYC and auxiliary NGOs*
- *Monthly newsletter of what the VYC consortium of groups are doing with respect to HIV/AIDS*
- *Ten Trained hotline counsellors*
- *Enhance counselling facility by creating a more youth friendly environment.*
- *Voluntary and Counselling Youth friend testing site*
- *Provision of technical support to private sector, religious and political institutions as the need arises.*

Among others

## **Project #2 Name COMMUNITY EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: Equipping Youth Today for Effective Environmental Management Tomorrow**

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

*The COMMUNITY EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: Equipping Youth Today for Effective Environmental Management Tomorrow aims at:*

- Developing an environmental education and awareness-building framework for the promotion of sustainable development among Guyanese youth.*
- Facilitating community-based environmental programming.*
- Increasing the organizational capacity of youth-based organizations such as VYC to design and implement social and environmental programs in a holistic way.*
- To provide youth with further opportunities to participate, identify and solve local environmental problems*

## **Start date**

*This project is expected to last for a period of three years and will be carried in three phases.  
August 2004*

## **End date**

*August 2007*

## **Main activities**

*The major activities will include:*

- *Preparation and production of an Environmental Education and Awareness-building framework tailored to youth and community organizations.*

- Implementation of a multi-stakeholder environmental planning process involving government and not-for-profit organizations, the private sector, the NGO community and local community groups.
- Identification and selection of 3-5 partner communities
- Training and awareness-building sessions
- Design and implementation of action oriented community environmental projects
- Development of a participatory training manual for youth and community environmental groups on sustainable development issues.

### Main source(s) of funding

### Project theme or sector

### Project partners

WYC and FutureWatch (Canadian base NGO)

### Geographic scope

Three to five Guyanese communities will be selected based on a needs assessment process, the relevance of the environmental problem, and the degree of community interest in participating in this type of programming.

### Results of Project

It is expected that the successful implementation and execution of the proposed program, it will assist in furthering concrete behavioral changes amongst youth towards the environment. Will foster increased commitment towards community environmental stewardship, and will provide an opportunity to solve environmental problems through community participation and through the use of low impact environmental technologies (i.e construction of artificial wetland for small scale waste water treatment, or the implementation of a solid waste recycling program, and/or the naturalization of sensitive areas).

### Project #3 Name/Goal

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guyana

- **Goal:** To develop a Professional Mentorship Programme for children and youth between the ages of 8 –19 in Guyana, who are disadvantaged, "at-risk" and or affected by HIV/AIDS

### Start date

on-going

### End date

### Main activities

- To provide mentors and role models for the children or youth of single parents between the ages of 8 to 19 years in the formal school system who are disadvantaged, at-risk or affected by HIV/AIDS in Region 4 Guyana.
- To establish and develop a trusting relationship between a caring adult and a disadvantaged child or youth thereby creating a safe environment for positive interaction.
- To aid and inspire a child or youth with his/her academic work so as to enable them to attain their highest potential.
- To facilitate and foster a good relationship between the child/youth in their own home and school environment through support, encouragement and effective communication thereby enabling them to develop and maintain positive value systems.

### Main source(s) of funding

USAID and International Funders

### Project theme or sector

### Project partners

BBBSG have no Partners, however we are networking with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Services & Social Security, University of Guyana and Private Sector Organizations – all of whom have representatives on the BBBSG Advisory Board

### Geographic scope

Extend to other regions

### Results of Project

### Results of Project

It is hoped that this programme will serve to:

- To reduce the number of early dropouts.*
- To reduce the rate of students truancy.*
- To help the students to deal with crisis management.*
- To help the child/youth to fulfil their highest potential.*
- To improve the academic achievement of the student.*

*To improve general classroom behaviour and attitudes of children.*

## **Networking**

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

1. NGOs working in the area of HIV/AIDS
2. NGOs working on youth issues and Youth employment