

Each year, Empowerment and Equity Through Education is expanding its impact on the education of children in Guyana. In September and October 2010, over 2,500 medical journals, as well as medical, mathematics, (including advanced mathematics), physics, biology, and Spanish textbooks were shipped to Guyana. They were distributed to institutions, and students at:

***The University of Guyana Medical Students Association; the University of Guyana Medical School Resource Center; the University of Guyana Library; The Cyril Potter Teachers Training College; the National Library Georgetown; Hawkeye Sports and Mentoring; St. Cuthbert's Mission; the Georgetown School of Nursing; and communities in Georgetown, the West Bank Demerara, and Berbice.***

Over 1,800 school supplies items were also shipped and distributed to children in primary schools, high schools, and communities. The supplies donated were:

***Pens; pencils; crayons; colored-pencils; wide-ruled notebooks; composition notebooks; erasers; glue sticks; pencil cases; protractors; and mathematical instruments.***

I. New Outreach:

A. Georgetown School of Nursing Annex

EEE received several nursing books from a donor, and they were given to a nursing lecturer at the Georgetown School of Nursing Annex. The lecturer was very appreciative of them

because they will be useful for the nursing students who are in desperate need of textbooks.

B. The Cyril Potter Teachers Training College

This year, EEE was very fortunate to receive quite a number of many Spanish textbooks and workbook. They were given to the Head of the Language Department. Mathematics and physics books were also donated to the Head of and Science Departments.

C. Pastor Selwyn Sills of Linden

Pastor Selwyn Sills was given Mathematics textbooks and school supplies. Linden is a town about 64 miles from Georgetown, and was unable to visit this area during this visit. I do, however, plan to do so the next time I am in Guyana.

D. Ascension Secondary School

Ms. Cicely Johnson, a teacher at Ascension Secondary School told me of the need for mathematics textbooks. Seventy-five (75) were donated there.

E. Distribution of Medical Textbooks and Journals

The books and journals that were shipped in September were collected by representatives from the University of Guyana on the afternoon of November 10th and taken to the school's library. Two medical students from the immediate-past Executive Board of the Medical Students Association also came that afternoon and collected several boxes of textbooks for their resource library. In addition, they also received a sizable donation of scrubs that were donated by the medical students at Harvard University Medical School.

Books shipped in October were uplifted from Laparkan Shipping on November 11th. More books were given to the medical students on November 12th, and on November 13th many more books and journals were taken to the University of Guyana Medical School for its Resource Center.

II. Other Activities:

A. Workshops with Parents of High School Students

The Government of Guyana, and organizations such as Every Child Guyana are making attempts to address the problem of child abuse within the society. To this end, positive parenting workshops were being held at high schools, and I was invited by Mr. Nolan Hawke to speak with parents at Dolphin Secondary School in East Ruimveldt, and at Nehemiah Secondary School in Queenstown. The purpose of the presentations was to empower parents, many of whom are single mothers, with skills that would decrease hostility and violence in the home.

B. Meeting the 2010 Graduates of the University of Guyana Medical School

As this year's trip to Guyana coincided with the graduation of medical students from the University of Guyana, I was invited to the dinner for the graduates at the Georgetown Club on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and to the graduation ceremonies at the University on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Those who contributed to the success of the graduates were formally thanked at the dinner, and EEE was recognized for its ongoing contribution to the University of Guyana Medical School.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, I had lunch with Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, the new Director of the Medical School, and members of the

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current Medical Students Association Executive Board: Devendra Bhagwandin, President; Michon Sukoo-Pertab, Vice President; Maranatha Persaud, Treasurer; and Danielle Alleyne, Secretary. These students clearly expressed their desire for EEE to continue assisting them with books and medical models. The students, however, are in the process of implementing a system to improve the tracking of the books borrowed by students. Over the years, books donated by EEE have gone missing, and the focus of the discussion was to find ways to institute a system of borrowing where students who did not return books would be held accountable. How this was going to be reinforced was not reached at this meeting, but they planned to continue the discussion with Dr. Joseph, and administrators at the Resource Center.

The graduation ceremony for the University began at 4:30 PM at the University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus. It was a pleasure to witness the graduation of the medical students, many of whom I came to know over the years. Each donor to Empowerment and Equity Through Education who gave medical textbooks, medical models, scrubs, or money earmarked for the medical school has contributed to the success of these graduates. They have helped to impact the lives of many of these physicians-in-training, who will heal the sick, and alleviate pain and suffering of patients.