

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Community Outreach

- ❖ GO's After School Reading classes now reach an additional 107 youths every week. GO is ramping up to 300 youths each week by January 2007.
- ❖ GO's TOPS classes now reach 150 youths in the Corriverton community every week. We are ramping up to 450 youths each week by January 2007. By then, both the Reading and TOPS programs will reach 450 youths in our Community each week.



After School Reading Class at GO's Vo-Tech

GO's outreach into the community is exceeding our expectations. Currently, enrollment to date totals 107 youths in GO's After School Reading Programs. GO is ramping up to 300 students enrolled each week by January 2007. This aggressive ramp-up is driven by the enthusiastic response of parents and the community, and of course, the need is great.

In addition to the reading program, GO offers classes to primary students in sewing/crafts through our TOPS program. Each week, 150

students from Corriverton Primary come over to GO's Vo-tech facility at the Skeldon Primary Annex for vocational training in sewing and crafts. The TOPS curriculum includes: hand-sewing, hand-embroidery, measurements and squaring the grainline of material. Also, students work with fabrics to make handkerchiefs, kitchen towels, basketballs, and lots more!



TOPS students learn to take measurements at GO

The sewing curriculum is aligned with the public school. This program is a collaboration between GO and the government. It leverages the resources of the government and NGOs to reach deeper into the community.

This initial TOPS pilot program would not have been possible without the support of Mr. Subhan Ali, Corriverton Primary HM, and Ms. Shafiran Bhajan, Region 6 REDO. Its success has paved the way for a second upcoming TOPS program for the Tagore and Skeldon Primary students in January 2007. After these programs are on stream, 450 students will receive TOPS training in sewing and crafts each week.

## Welcome to GateWay



Starting After School Reading Program with a warm cup of milk at Streams of Power Church

GO's Literacy Project, commonly referred to as the After School Reading Program continues remarkable growth. Classes are in full swing now that the public schools are back in session. This term's enrollment is 107 and increases weekly. All of GO's classes are free except for some of the computer classes, which cost a minimal fee.

The Literacy curriculum focuses on phonics and is aligned with the public school's curriculum. GO's in-house staff and our teachers at our satellite facilities were trained in phonics by Dr. Janis Cushnie, a VSO and Region 6 consultant in phonics. GO also sends trainers from the US.



GO's reading program teachers at a phonics training seminar conducted by VSO. Janis Cushnie



After School Reading students learn vocabulary at Skeldon Emmanuel Lutheran Church

All After School Reading classes start at 3:00. Classes are held at the following locations: Vo-tech facility at the Skeldon Primary Annex with 22 students; Skeldon Presbyterian Church, with 15 students; Skeldon Emmanuel Lutheran Church with 15 students; Streams of Power Church at No. 78 with 15 students; Massiah Presbyterian Church at No. 71 with 15 students; New Testament Church of God at No. 63 with 10 students; Full Gospel Church at No. 48 with 15 students.

The focus of the program is functional literacy. Students learn how to pronounce and spell words through phonics. They work to improve reading fluency and comprehension. Introductory classes focus on the basics: first, how to write out the alphabet, and then later, simple words. In the next level of classes, they learn to write simple sentences and then paragraphs. In advanced classes, students focus on character and plot development, and increasing vocabulary. Comprehensive writing is promoted.

### INTERNET SERVICE

We also offer Internet Service to students and people of the community. Students from High Schools come in and browse web sites, send and receive messages, chat, download photographs and research assignments. Our courteous staff is always willing to assist in getting connected to the

## Welcome to GateWay

### PARTNERSHIP WITH FOOD FOR THE POOR

GO is pleased to announce its strategic partnership with Food For The Poor (FFTP). Through this partnership, GO provides each student with milk at all of its After School Reading Programs. Ruth Singh, Founder of GO observed the students when they arrived for the after school reading classes at 3:00. She said, "they come directly from a long day

of classes in the public schools. They come not only hungry to learn, but they are also physically hungry. The director for FFTP, Mr. Leon Davis, responded to this need. The faces of the children are now happier. Their focus is more on learning and less on hunger. Before starting each class, students are served a warm cup of milk. Thank you Food For The Poor."



After School Reading students receiving items from GO through Food For The Poor

Since most of the students attending our After School Reading Program also come from poor families, GO also distributes to their families about once a month items such as: powdered milk, rice, beans, potato flakes, clothing, and children books. These items are also provided by Food For The Poor.

### BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

GO is experiencing tremendous growth and for which, we thank the Lord. GO responded to the request to reach further into the community. As a result of our success, we are bursting at the seams. Our two-room facility at the Skeldon Primary School Annex is over-crowded. One room houses our sewing department and the other our computer department.



TOPS students at GO's Vo-tech classes

Each morning from 10:15 – 11:30 a.m, students come over from Corriverton Primary in batches of 30 to attend our TOPS class. The classes are held in the sewing room. In the afternoon, this same room is used for the sewing classes for adults. The adult sewing enrollment presently is 26 in the following classes:

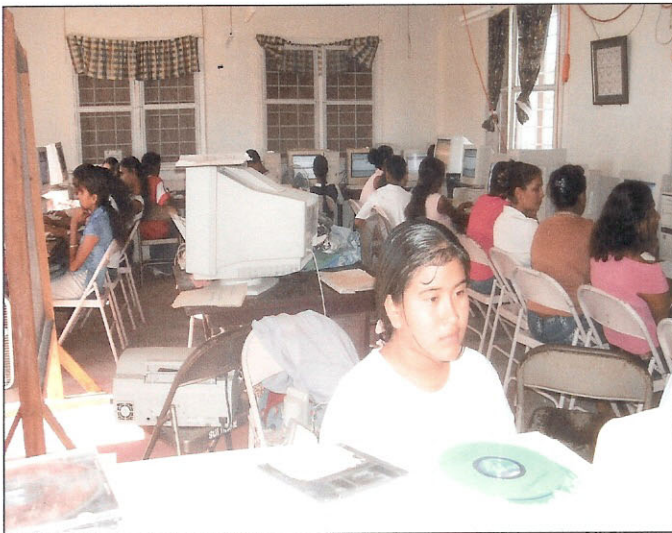
- SEWING/CRAFTS
- HAND EMBROIDERY
- A VARIETY OF CUSHION CLASS
- BASIC KNITTING
- INTERMEDIATE KNITTING
- ADVANCED KNITTING

In addition to the TOPS class in the morning, the sewing and reading program in the afternoon, this same room also doubles as our library, which has a circulation of 5000 books. As you can imagine, this is a very busy and

## Welcome to GateWay

The other room, which houses our computer department, is equally as crowded. Throughout the day, GO teaches many IT classes. Our current computer enrollment is **98** for the following IT classes:

- CHILDREN COMPUTER CLASS
- INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS
- COMPUTERISED TYPING
- MS WORD I
- MS WORD II
- MS WORD III
- WINDOWS 98
- MS EXCEL I & II
- MS POWERPOINT
- MS ACCESS I & II
- INTERNET



Students at the Vo-tech computer classes

### **SEARCH FOR LAND**

GO is broadening our search of land outside of the greater Corriverton. Although moving outside of Corriverton will negatively affect the ease and access by the Corriverton community to our services, it is important to find suitable land to build new facilities. Without land for suitable and permanent facilities, GO cannot continue to expand our services further into Region 6.

Our lease at the Skeldon Primary School Annex will come due in about a year. Time is very short for us to find land and build new facilities. Please get in touch with us as soon as possible if you know of any piece of land along the public road

In Corriverton, we are looking for about one acre. If we can't find land in Corriverton, then we need six acres along the public road between Corriverton and 64 Village. The six acres will cater to our current and future needs, including: classrooms for sewing, computers, Vo-tech training, auditorium, individual and group counseling, playground, administrative offices, housing for in-country staff and visiting US teams, a bond, parking, and an IT center for community access to the Internet. Please help us to help you and our community.



GO's Founder, Ruth Singh teaches a child how to read.

### **JOIN OUR TEAM**

As GO continues its growth, we need additional staff (full-time and part-time). We are seeking individuals to teach primary students at our various satellite locations as we expand throughout Region Six.

GO is also looking for full-time teachers and administration support. In particular, we need an individual to help us to develop new curriculum and upgrade existing curriculum. We need teachers for our computer classes. We need someone to assist with production of our newsletters and maintain our web page. These opportunities can help you to develop job experience and enhance your career opportunities.

If you are interested, please contact Celina Sookram, our Country Manager at Skeldon Primary School Annex, Skeldon Corriverton.  
Tel. Nos: 339-2267. Cell: 648-8859 or