

# Zara Realty and The Subraj's Family Make Largest Single IT Donation to School in Guyana

BY NARDEO SINGH

Mr. George Subraj, President of Zara Realty, a New York-based property management and development company, along with his US-based team consisting of his lovely wife Gloria, his son Tony, sister Raj Narine, brother Steve and his friends Lake Persaud, Andy Rambrose, Jas Persaud and IT consultant Naresh Singh, traveled to Guyana on September 23rd to finish the technical work required to commission the largest state-of-the-art computer training centre at the Saraswati Vidya Niketan Secondary School at Cornelia Ida (C.I.) on the West Coast of Demerara, Guyana.

As his friend IT consultant Naresh said, "This is a more than a computer centre; it's a data centre

and can work as a remote backup centre for the Government ministries".

This generous donation -- which consists of forty dual core Dell computers with forty 22" flat screen monitors, a Quad core Windows Dell server, projector, notebook computer, router, network switches, printers, along with installation of the network cables, furniture, and air-conditioning -- is valued at more than G\$25 million Guyana dollars.

The air-conditioning system was donated by George's good friend, Andy Rambrose. When asked why such a lavish donation, Mr. Subraj replied that he always believed in giving back to society.

"I am very fortunate, along with my brother Ken and Jay. We are blessed to be in a financial position where we can help our less fortunate fellow man especially in the area of education," George said.



The Zara Computer Training Center, a branch of the Saraswati Vidya Niketan Secondary School at Cornelia Ida, West Coast of Demerara, Guyana



From left: George Subraj, Jas Persaud, Dr. Prem Misir and teachers.



From left: Steve Subraj, Tony Subraj, Nardeo Singh and George Subraj

George has made many donations in the past, the most recent was financing the first kidney transplant operation in Guyana. He also supported his brother Jay Sobhraj in 2007 in establishing the first state-of-the-art Computer Centre at the Cove and John Ashram on the East Coast Demerara in Guyana. This is a 30 workstation computer centre. The Zara's principals also established a twenty five workstation computer centre in Jamaica, Queens, NY and finance the installation of two elevators value over \$70,000 for two local mandirs.

In 2001 Mr. Subraj was also very instrumental under the Guyana Watch organization to

assist in the establishing of the very first state-of-the-art computer centre at the University of Guyana, Berbice campus located at Tain Village. Also on this trip, George donated 27 pieces of Accucheck HDM 3.2.1 Diagnostic machines for cholesterol and glucose monitoring to Michael Khan CEO of Georgetown Hospital. These medical monitors are ideal for a hospital setting. He also donated a desktop computer to the Pro Chancellors office at the University Of Guyana

Why this big push for so many computer training centres?

George replied that technology is the driving force for growth in any economy and technology is having a tremendous impact on the economic, social and spiritual aspect of our lives. Anyone who doesn't have computer skills will be displaced from the work force, he says. In addition, his goal is to fully equip these centres with the most advanced computers so that it would not become obsolete in a short time.

"The students will grow into it as opposed to growing out of it," he said, adding that the computer centres will help to transform the Guyanese society into the digital age.

"It's the present and the future for all," he noted.

Why Guyana? Mr. Subraj said that Guyana is a developing nation and needs all the help especially from the Guyanese

Diaspora in North America and Europe. It's nothing like giving back to your mother country, he feels. Also, he re-



From left: Steve Subraj, George Subraj, Tony Subraj, Nardeo Singh

membered as a child what it was like growing up and not having the opportunity to get an advanced education. So why not make a difference for the less fortunate?

IT consultant, Mr. Naresh Singh stresses the important of adult computer training at the centre. He said that it's important for adults to get trained because it will help them to secure their jobs and also monitor their kids' use of the internet. He mentioned that the internet is an inter-connection of computer networks through out the world. If you don't monitor a child's use of the internet, especially the virtual chat rooms and virtual communities such as

facebook will leave room for an internet user to harm them by inviting them to meet to indulge in criminal and proactive activities. We must warn the children to report any strange invitations or messages they receive while surfing the internet.

As for the centres in Guyana, Mr. Singh said that the biggest problem facing the Guyanese's economy is the population and the size of the work force.

A population of an average 800,000 people and an average work force of 250,000 cannot develop 83,000 square miles, the size of Guyana. Therefore it's important that Guyanese work smart and not hard. Technology is a tool that helps you to get the job done faster, smarter and most efficiently. Naresh also believed that once the connectivity to the internet in Guyana is upgraded the telecommunication sector will become the integral driver of the Guyanese's economy. Right now the internet connectivity is very slow and as such will

Kidney transplant operation sponsored by his dad under the umbrella of Zara Realty. Tony is following his father's footsteps in giving back to society and works very hard on all of the projects. Tony holds three master degrees but is very humble and good natured. Tony was very instrumental in adding the video/audio capabilities to the centre.

Andy Rambrose a successful businessman in the New York area and a very good friend to Mr. Subraj was very helpful in donating the air-conditioning system for the centre and was on the trip to provide help in the electrical aspect of the project. Andy is a license electrician in New York.

Mr. Lake Persaud an Engineer by profession, and also a Radio personality is the host of his own radio program in New York on WGBB 1240 am on Sundays. Jas Persaud is also another Radio Personality and is the host of a two hour radio program every Sunday. Both gentlemen are very good friends of Mr. Subraj and were on the trip to provide Media help.



From left: Nardeo Singh, Tony Subraj, George Subraj, Andy Rambrose, Lake Persaud and Steve Subraj



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