



A Foundation and School for children with Autism

Patron: Her Excellency, Sandra M. Granger, First Lady of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

A NEW BUILDING FOR THE STEP BY STEP SCHOOL

A. BACKGROUND

The Step by Step Foundation was registered as a charity in August 2011. A month later, the Foundation opened its school with just five children and three tutors. The mission of the school is to enable children with autism to achieve their maximum potential by providing quality educational opportunities. Nearly five years later, it has grown to nineteen children (all diagnosed with moderate or severe autism), seven tutors, an administrator and support staff. We also benefit from the invaluable guidance and commitment of three US-based consultants.

The School has been supported entirely by donations from the private sector and individuals. The generosity of our donors has enabled us to maintain a low pupil to teacher ratio (3:1), thereby enabling individualized programmes and maximum impact. However, we have now reached the limit of our capacity in the School's present site, and there are nearly forty children on our waiting list seeking admission. We need a bigger school. More information on the Foundation and School can be found on our website: www.stepbystepguyana.org.

B. RECENT EVENTS

Three exciting events occurred during the first quarter of 2016:

1. Her Excellency, Sandra M. Granger, the First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, agreed to become our Patron, and support our efforts to meet the educational needs of children with autism.
2. The Ministry of Education has given us land to enable us to build a bigger school with a better range of facilities. The land is situated on the campus of the Cyril Potter College of Education.
3. The Ministry of Education has also agreed to meet our need for teachers as we admit more children. The School and its consultants will train the teachers in methods for autism education. These teachers can later be deployed in schools elsewhere in Guyana, eventually ensuring that all children with autism can access a quality education tailored to their needs.

C. BUILDING A NEW SCHOOL

Mr Kenrick Thomas, architect, has generously given his time and expertise to develop and cost a site plan for the new school which will accommodate 50-60 children and provide a range of other facilities, including an outdoor play area which we currently lack. The total cost of the school is G\$ 120.5 millions (US\$ 574,000). Construction in stages is a possibility. Both the site plan and the components of the proposal to build in stages are attached.

D. CONTACT US

To discuss how you can help, please contact us on 222 2633 (Dr Suraiya Ismail, Chair of Foundation) or 231 4172 (Mrs Deborah Seebarran, Deputy Chair). Donations can be made:

- By cheque to The Step by Step Foundation-Building Funds, delivered to The Step by Step Foundation, 13 Bel Air Gardens, Georgetown.
- Or by transfer to our account at the Republic Bank Ltd, 38-40 Water Street, Georgetown.
Account name: The Step by Step Foundation-Building Funds; Account number: 266-761-1;
Swiftcode: RBGLGYGG

CONSTRUCTION STAGES FOR STEP BY STEP SCHOOL

STAGE	AREA (in sq.ft)	ROOMS / COMPONENTS(*) (by end of stage)	GUYANA \$ (in millions)	US \$ (to nearest thousand)
Stage 1: Foundation (all)	11,660	Foundation, curb wall, slab – for complete school	30.0	143
Stage 2: North wing	4,770	As above, plus: 4 classrooms; 2 group workrooms; 1 staff office; 1 lunch room / kitchen; 1 meeting / training room; 3 washrooms; 1 storage area; partial fence	37.0	176
Stage 3: West wing	3,530	As above, plus: 2 classrooms; 2 group workrooms, 1 storage area	27.5	131
Stage 4: South wing	3,360	As above, plus: 2 classrooms; 5 individual workrooms; students' IT room; 2 small offices; 1 washroom; 2 storage areas; completed fence, inner compound, steps and ramps, enclosed playground etc.	26.0	124
TOTALS	11,660		120.5	574

(*) Internal space will be re-configured as we proceed through the stages.