

December 26, 2010

Early Christmas Treat for Children-In-Need and Orphans

Poughkeepsie, NY: PRIyaCOMM partnered with a non-governmental organization, SAATHI, to spread the spirit of Christmas with children from impoverished communities and orphans in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago. Over 1,200 children came from all parts of the country, orphanages, churches, temples and schools to attend the 3-day annual event. Parents, as well as senior citizens and disabled children from centers in neighboring villages, also joined in the festivities.

President of SAATHI, Rosemarie Dipnarine, stated, "We are very happy to have PRIyaCOMM join with and support us in this massive undertaking every year. With the demands of the season for our individual families, it is very easy for these children to be left behind and forgotten. We make every effort to ensure that these children are able to experience, and share in the love and joy of this festival also."

On each day, the children enjoyed Christmas carols, popular local folk music (parang), Chinese tiger dances, puppet shows, musical performances on the steelpan and the Hawaiian guitar, popular songs and dances by top local artists and age-appropriate games. They were also treated to a special Christmas dinner and desserts, as well as snack bags and Christmas gifts.



PRIyaCOMM president, Karen Dipnarine-Saroop, noted, "The simplest actions bring immense happiness to these children. We may not be able to completely transform their world immediately, but we were able to touch these young lives, and let each child know that someone cares."

Hampers were distributed to orphanages and senior citizens' centers. A donation of \$2,000 was made toward the purchase of a wheelchair for a child suffering with cerebral palsy.