

# Med student heads to Belize on a mission

*Outreach program educates people about health care*

**ALICIA GORDON**  
Correspondent

First-year medical student Mala Arasu is heading to Belize to improve the quality of life in the impoverished country.

Arasu, 21, will join four other medical students, one nursing student and a life science student to spend time helping rural doctors.

The program will also allow other students to provide services in Ghana and reserves in Northern Ontario.

The University of Toronto graduate, who earned an honours degree in immunology and English literature, said she has always had a keen interest in international development and learning about underprivileged areas.

As an undergraduate in Toronto, Arasu had the opportunity to spend four months in a rural village in South India.

She spent time working in a relief centre and taught a class of approximately 200 students. She was able to give the children an opportunity to an education they might otherwise not have received.

Now studying medicine at Queen's University, the Markham native said taking part in the medical outreach program in Belize will give her the opportunity to spend time with the people, educating them about nutrition, first aid, diarrheal disease prevention and treatment, prenatal care, protection against malaria and responsible sexuality.

Scheduled to depart on May 23, Arasu will be spending six weeks shifting from family to family and also teaching groups of school children.

Recognized by the World Health Organization, the team of students has received much support.

The Red Cross will be providing vehicles when they arrive in Belize, and has arranged talks with the ministers of education and health.

The expense of this trip, however, is no longer covered by the previous financial supporter, CIDA, and the students are looking for donations from the community to offset the expenses.

Anyone interested in helping can make cheques payable to Queen's Medical Outreach, which is a registered charity. For more details on sponsoring the trip, call Mala Arasu at (613) 533-5943.



**MALA ARASU:** Wants to help people living in impoverished countries.



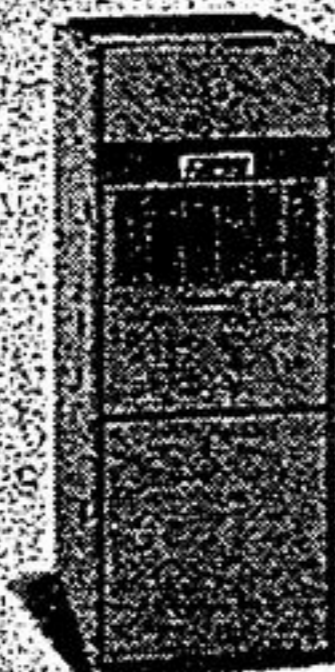
Unionville artist Donald Campbell's annual show celebrates spring at the Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre on Main Street, Unionville this weekend. Today and tomorrow, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., visitors to the gallery can view Campbell's original oils, watercolours and prints that feature pastel hues and rich jewel tones. Many of the artist's natural settings reflect a gardener's paradise.

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