

## Diane Bacchus-Quddus and Ashwin Srisailam

### Designers of the Ahhaa App!

A chance meeting between two highly motivated persons has led to the creation of an app that will take the world of technology by storm.

The Ahhaa app can be downloaded on your playstore or iTunes from the website [www.ahhaa.co](http://www.ahhaa.co). The two persons behind this technology are Diane Bacchus-Quddus and Ashwin Srisailam.

on it. Diane attended primary school in New Amsterdam after which she articulated to Berbice Educational Institute. Her best subjects were in the sciences and the teachers were supportive. Diane says that New Amsterdam was an interesting experience.

friend Mala accompanied her to the airport.

Diane arrived in New York on a warm day in May and found it to be beautiful. She was thrilled to reunite with her mother and brother. The family stayed in Richmond Hill and Diane became accustomed to her surroundings. She

had to fit her studies with three jobs. They were mostly in doctor's offices and they kept her busy. But Diane was determined to do well. She graduated with her degree in Political Science and Sociology and decided to pursue a profession in finance.

Diane made a

dia and he was motivated by some of the speakers there to explore ways to dissolve inner conflicts and to arrive at inner peace and clarity. As the only child in his family Ashwin decided to pursue a path that would lead to finding inner peace and he found his parents to be most cooperative.

ing basic information on a computer. The plans crystallized after Ashwin met Diane in Washington D.C and on their return they began to discuss the designing of an app that would enable people to communicate with each other on different levels.

The app revolves around all kinds of topics and interests since people are fundamentally good and caring. As a result they created the ahhaa app, a light bulb moment in life! The app can be downloaded freely on iTunes and the Android Play store. The biggest moment in the life of the app came in April 2015 when it was officially launched in India by the Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman.

Some of the beneficiaries of the app are the thousands of children in the New York Public School system. Since the app



**Diane Bacchus-Quddus and Ashwin Srisailam have created the ahhaa app ([www.ahhaa.co](http://www.ahhaa.co)) to bring the world closer.**

Diane is from Guyana and Ashwin is from India and their collaboration has not only crossed boundaries but has created a sense of awareness and understanding that will broaden and eventually link up the world.

Diane was born in New Amsterdam, in Berbice, Guyana. Her mom is Patricia Singh and her dad is Tasmallie Bacchus, also known as Boyo. Diane is the youngest of eight children and she had a lot of responsibility entrusted on her but she thrived

on it. 'Life was hardly a bed of roses. We came from a big family and at age nine I had to help out the family. I would sell bread and cakes in the village and my world was small and narrow.'

Diane's brothers had left the family for residence in the United States and her mother soon followed. This meant that the young Diane was left with other family members, including her dad. She was eleven years old and missed her family. Two years later Diane took a plane to join the rest of the family in New York. She was excited to leave Guyana and her

found a summer job in a mailroom in the city and had to travel on the train. When it came time for school Diane went to St. Nicholas School in Brooklyn. She found that the school comprised cultures from different parts of the world which was a refreshing experience.

It was now time for Diane to attend High School and she enrolled in Richmond Hill High School. She found Richmond Hill to be a great school and she enjoyed the experience there. Diane then moved to Manhattan and graduated early. She enrolled at Hunter College and

life-changing decision in 1998. She tied the knot with Nahaz Quddus and the marriage is going strong. She joined him in the pharmacy business and this brings both of them satisfaction as they help people. In 2012 Diane met Ashwin Srisailam and another life-changing experience would occur. Ashwin said the meeting took place at a talking platform that was run by life coach Tony Robbins. Ashwin was invited to speak on the platform and that is where he met Diane.

Ashwin has an interesting history. He spent his formative years in In-

He spent a lot of time in Chennai learning the secret of silence and then he traveled the length and breadth of India and in Africa to allow persons to find their inner selves. Ashwin says, 'we are always quick to blame the outside but we neglect to see ourselves from the inside.'

By 2012 Ashwin was living in Los Angeles and conducting workshops but he felt that there had to be a better way of connecting with the public. He wanted to create a platform in which people can communicate with each other by merely typ-

is designed along the lines of Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports (PBIS) high school and college students can use it to support each other. One additional benefit is that data can be used to help reduce infractions in the classrooms. But the ahhaa app is for everyone. We congratulate Diane Bacchus-Quddus and Ashwin Srisailam for using the technology to make communication a beautiful experience.

([www.ahhaa.co](http://www.ahhaa.co))