



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



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CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization.

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CAMO

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Spinal Healing

Imagine being told that you were never going to walk again. That you could no longer run and play with your children. That you could no longer work to support your family.

While most of us hope this never becomes our fate, it is reality for many individuals in Honduras suffering from spinal fractures, herniated discs, and other spinal injuries. The treatments are expensive and therefore difficult for a person with limited resources to acquire. The public health system is unable to assist in this specialty, so these low-income people have suffered without aid.

Sara was a serious example of such a case. She was injured after falling on her way home in November 2010. She broke her back causing a spinal injury and was told that an emergency operation was needed if she was to ever walk again. However her low income situation meant that she could not afford the necessary surgery.

But Sara was able to receive her surgery, thanks to the Neurosurgery program at CAMO. The program, under the direction of Dr. Roberto Alvarez, has helped over 175 people, 85% of whom were economically disadvantaged. Dr. Alvarez performed Sara's operation in December, and she has since then been discharged and begun her therapy at Telethon. She is on her journey of walking again.



C-Arm donated by Aultman Hospital to CAMO being used during surgery to repair the spine



Dr. Roberto Alvarez performing surgery

78 people received aid from the Neurosurgery Program this past year! With this program their suffering could find relief.

This October, teams will be heading to Honduras. While Neurosurgery is one of the specialties, these teams also include CPR, Endoscopy, and Prosthetics, along with EMT, Respiratory, Software, and Tennis.



Oscar, now able to walk to school with the aid of a walker from CAMO's Wheelchair program

The Determined

Oscar is a young boy who longed for an education, but everyday he was unable to make the long walk to school. You see, Oscar was born with cerebral palsy, leaving him unable to walk; but his journey did not stop there. With the help of Telethon he became able to crawl on his hands and knees at a young age. Then at 14, he received an operation from Americans who told him it would give him the ability to walk. However, after the surgery Oscar did not find himself able to do so with his lower body still too weak. The young boy then returned to Telethon for more therapy. They advised him to use a walker since he lacked enough strength to walk on his own. After being brought to CAMO seeking help with his mobility, we were able to fit him with a walker as part of our Wheelchair program in Honduras.

Oscar is a determined boy. He knows that he wants an education, and now with the support of the walker he makes his 45 minute journey from home to his school everyday. Oscar's school has observed his strong conviction toward education and has awarded him a scholarship in hopes that he will be an example for others to follow. He is an inspiration to all of us.

With the help of CAMO's Wheelchair Program over 1,800 items have been donated in the last year which served 680 people.

Granting Sight to the Blind

Take a quick look around you and realize all the wonderful, colorful things you can see. Now close your eyes, and imagine what life would be like without the gift of sight.

For Carlos the dark world of no sight was a reality. At the young age of 28, Carlos had accepted a life of total blindness. Diabetes and extreme sun exposure from field work had caused his eyesight to go from fuzzy to black. However, once he reached the hospital where Dr. Robles, the director of the ophthalmology program, was able to attend him, Carlos' spirits began to brighten.

He received an operation right away. The following day, when Dr. Robles removed the young man's eye patch his eyes filled with tears. He was overwhelmed with the site of the doctor's fingers. Dr Robles smiled and asked, "How many fingers can you see?" and the young man answered correctly without hesitation. With the success of the operation Carlos' eyesight had returned to nearly 20/20. The joy of having his sight back was overwhelming. After being in the dark for nearly two months, he was given a new lease on life.

The young Carlos is only one example of the many individuals the Ophthalmology program of CAMO has served. 1,585 people were provided care in the last year with over 1,800 procedures being performed. What a bright future!



Carlos receiving an eye exam prior to surgery



Carlos after surgery- being able to see for the first time in months

“My Best Friend: The Guitar. My Best Gift: A Song. And The Music: My Life!”

Yary Naldy Pinto Peña could not have spoken truer words to describe her passion for music. As she explains it “Music is my life, it is the food of my soul and my spirit.” Yary is the current music teacher at the Cultural Center in Santa Rosa. She was born in the city of Santa Rosa and grew up surrounded by music in a family full of musicians. She now works for minimal pay and no benefits teaching the children of Honduras with a strong heart. Her vision is to be a person who changes the course of art education in her town. She believes that art enhances the culture of her country.

She is also the current Director for the Band DO-RE-MI. The group consists of 5 girls and 8 boys ages 11 to 19. Some of them are low-income youth and all are studying music in their spare time. The band provides recreation off the streets away from crime and violence.

Yary has found that her enthusiasm for music can only take the program so far. Yary cannot teach her students music when the tools to do so are in short supply. The Cultural Center was built under the supervision of CAMO and with funding from CAMO, Spanish Government, Congress of Honduras and the Cities Historical Commission. The doors of this facility opened the end of 2010. Yary uses the second floor of this facility to share her knowledge of over 20 instruments but she does not have adequate instruments to teach with. CAMO donated 12 instruments to the program in 1999, but only 2 of these remain in good condition. With the few instruments available, most of the children can only practice for one hour per week. They must be shared with many others. To bring music to Honduras they need our help. They need instruments to make their music come alive.

Here is where you can help: rummage through your closets, and dust off your old clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, flutes etc. Your donations could give a child of Santa Rosa the gift of music. CAMO is hosting an Instrument Drive, in Orrville and the surrounding areas, to help collect used instruments and put them in the hands of longing students! So please, stop by our Orrville office and drop off any and all instruments in working condition! Your generosity will grant the children of Honduras the means towards a song.



Rommel playing on the instrument donated to him by a volunteer impressed with his talent



Students are eager to learn from the music program at the Cultural Center

Visit us on
our website to
see CAMO's
latest projects,
view more
photos, and
find out how
you can help.
www.camo.org

Visit our flickr site: www.flickr.com/photos/centralamericanmedicaloutreach

\$35 Dollars Made A Great Difference

Ortencia is an ambitious young woman with 3 young children at home who look up to her for guidance. She has always dreamed of having a career but her husband has forcibly and abusively denied her this option. For years her husband did not allow her to engage in any activities outside the home, nor did he allow her to handle money. Her ability to continue studying or training was forbidden, and she was forced to give up all aspiration of becoming a professional.

When a friend told Ortencia about a school where they taught occupations to women, she was excited to hear of such opportunity. However, she lacked the funds to enroll and pay for the expenses, and her husband would not allow her the money.

Ortencia then began participating in a program at the Women's Center where she began to understand her position as a victim of domestic abuse. This awareness motivated her to enroll in the classes where CAMO had set up a fund with the help of a grant from Virginia Gildersleeve Foundation. For the cost of \$35, female victims of domestic violence are offered a training program in the Trade School which is connected to the Women's shelter. Ortencia was able to enter the program through these funds in April of 2010 enrolling in dressmaking and tailoring. When she completed the course in April of 2011 she invested in a sewing machine and other raw materials. She now makes bags and purses which she is able to sell.

Ortencia's perseverance and strength along with the proper funding granted her the career and independence she had always dreamed of having. And she hopes to some day pass this along to her children.



Ortencia enrolled in dressmaking and tailoring at the trade school and can now make a career of selling the items she makes

Always There, Always Supportive

Kathy Tschiegg

This would describe my Uncle Larry. At the age of 11 he lost his parents in a car accident and came to live with our family shortly after. It was not until I was older that I realized he was not my brother, but my uncle. Uncle Larry loved people, he was a servant, but the type of servant who was quiet, he just helped people. For a living he was a great hair stylist. Everyone he had as a client was not only a client to him but a friend. He would listen and be supportive to all those people. He would never disagree; he would just smile, and make you feel not only beautiful on the outside, but also good on the inside. My Uncle Larry, lost his fight with cancer June 5th of this year, but even during this fight he wanted to continue to serve. He asked me to take his hair work station and equipment and donate it to the trade school in Honduras. He wanted others to learn his beloved trade. So Larry's Family Hair will continue on in service, to always be there and be supportive to everyone who sits in his chair. Thanks Uncle Larry.



Larry Tschiegg doing what he loved- making people feel beautiful

Daycare Serves the Poor Children of its Barrio

When 5 year old Kevin grows up he wants to be a police officer so he can catch thieves. The ambitious dream of Cesar is to become a firefighter so he can help people and extinguish all the fires.

These were just two of the children who participated in the crafts course given at the daycare center in Santa Rosa this summer. 20 children between the ages of five and six received this course instructed by Yessenia Bueso. The children completed all kinds of



Children working with their teacher to create paper-mache



Teacher, Yessenia Bueso, and the children who participated in the program

projects including paper-mache, animal masks, and hats!

On Friday, August 5th, the children completed their crafts and the course. Recognition was given to each of the participants, and a party was held in their honor.

Please, stop by our Orrville office and drop off any and all instruments in working condition! Your generosity will grant the children of Honduras the means towards a song.

**Go
Green!**

Donate your old cellular telephones and empty ink cartridges/toners to CAMO.

Please call the office for more information: (330) 683-5956 • (330) 313-1000

Please visit our website www.camo.org

The Gandy-Murphy Partnership: How One Letter Led to a Decade of Caring

Jennifer Greer

In 1998, an Alabama businessman received an unsolicited letter that changed his life – and the lives of thousands of people in Honduras.

Robert N. Gandy, of Harpersville, is not the kind of guy to open solicitations. A self-employed consultant and language interpreter, he also manages a small, working farm. In short, he has little extra time on his hands. But this letter looked like a personal one, from a former Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, where Robert had served as a Peace Corps forester on the Mosquito Coast.

It was a letter of appeal from Kathy Tschiegg, also a trained nurse, about a new organization that she had started called the Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO). In the letter, Kathy painted a desperate picture of the number of Honduran babies who died before the age of five. In the town where she had served, many newborns never made it out of the hospital, an aged, crumbling structure with no equipment for premature or at-risk infants.

As someone who had lived and worked in Honduras, and often returned there on business, Robert could easily imagine the pain of hard-working families with no money or access to doctors and medicine. He knew their worried faces. Like anyone who has ever visited an impoverished country and connected with the people, he carried some of the weight of their struggle home.

He discussed it with his wife, Jennifer, who was also self-employed. They didn't have much money, but they wrote a small check to CAMO and got ready to mail it. That same week, providentially, Harry E. Murphy, Robert's former boss and life-long mentor, mentioned that he was looking for a new charity to support, something in Latin America, something in healthcare.

Murphy, a retired consulting forester and philanthropist, had also worked and traveled extensively in Honduras. When Robert mentioned the idea of CAMO, Murphy jumped on it. He flew Robert, Jennifer, two nurses and a social worker to Santa Rosa de Copan to "check things out." The team, all of whom spoke



Robert Gandy showing the boys their photos

Spanish, came back and told Murphy that CAMO was one of the best – and neediest – missions they had ever seen.

Recalls Robert: "We were impressed with the way Kathy had thought the concept out, with the sustainability of her approach, the partnerships between physicians, and her support from the Hondurans at the local and national level. Kathy was simply a catalyst for an effort the entire community would eventually support."

Murphy began donating to CAMO, with Robert acting as his "eyes on the ground." Together, their effort has resulted in gifts of more than a half million dollars over the last decade. Robert also volunteered as a Spanish-English interpreter for CAMO and went on over a dozen medical field trips, frequently assisting the dental teams. In addition, he served for several years on the CAMO Board of Directors and just ended a two-

year term as president. In this capacity, using his local connections, Robert forged a new relationship with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) to help train nurses from Santa Rosa de Copan. UAB (where his wife Jennifer now works) currently sends nursing students to Santa Rosa and CAMO for their study abroad.

Today, Murphy, who is 90 years old, says his philanthropy to CAMO would not have been possible without the support of Robert. He recently made an additional \$30,000 contribution to the CAMO Endowment Fund in Robert's name to highlight the role of his junior partner. "People want to give me the credit, but it belongs to Robert," says Murphy. "He did all the work. He is a rare person who cares deeply about his fellow man and works hard to translate those principles into action, not just talk. He does this everyday, whether he's working or volunteering. It's just who he is."

Says Mark Gustafson, fellow board member, of Robert's contribution to CAMO: "Roberto has a knack for keeping me and the whole Dental Brigade grounded and running. He evaluates and corrects the various SNAFUs that are bound to arise when ever you attempt to do anything in a rural community,

in a third world country — anything from making a recommendation to change the size of the board that is being used as the governor for an antique generator, to unplugging clogged dental drills so we can continue treating people in the field. He connects a "story" to the face (or in our case, the mouth) of people we are treating — something that I have trouble doing with my limited knowledge of Spanish and the fact we see over 100 patients a day. He is a great guy and someone I have been fortunate to work with and get to know as a true friend."



CAMO's Dental Program provides dental care to over 29,000 people per year.



Youth of Honduras receiving dental care from CAMO's Dental Brigade

Community Center and Gym Excel with New Leadership

As many of you might recall this gym was a mud floor in 2004, but today it is a busy, clean facility for the entire community. Whether it is for public elections, church functions, school activities, or tournaments of all kinds this is the place to be. But it was not always this way. In November 2008 we found it to be poorly managed with a leaking roof and very few people using it. CAMO was asked by the community to be the presiding president of the governing body. We, with the help of a great group of community volunteers, have been able to turn this facility into a vital place. Through proper management it is now making an average of \$2000 per month. This money is being used for expansion and to bring more services to the “at risk” children of Santa Rosa.

This past March two volunteers from Orrville used their gifts to help further develop this community gym in Santa Rosa. Pat Larson and Kevin Landers helped to load the truck here in the U.S. with \$6,800 of circuit training and weight equipment for its journey to the community gym in Honduras. The equipment has made it to the facility and is now in use in the community gym. Pat and Kevin also traveled to Honduras to work with the governing body of this facility to bring ideas about the activities which could be developed for the boys and girls of the community. They also worked to help identify policies and procedures which needed to be implemented for this facility.

We have great hopes for this facility and its ability to meet the needs of the at risk youth in Santa Rosa.



The Gym after renovations



The new equipment being put to great use



Children enjoying the new gym and the new opportunities it grants



The Community Center situated behind the Women's shelter

Community Center

The community center sits behind the women's shelter. We have completed construction and are working with the community group to define functions and use. This center was built as part of the agreement for the land on which the women's shelter was built. The barrio is one of the highest risk and has no facilities or areas for children to play safely. CAMO will work closely with the barrio leaders to assure the use is appropriate and will serve as a meeting place for children as an alternative refuge from the streets.



Anyone who has basketballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, tennis balls, or nets for these sports, the donation would be appreciated

Please visit our website www.camo.org

Executive Staff

August is always a busy month. With kids going back to school, hectic last minute summer plans, and everyone getting one last swim in their pools, August is rarely a month for relaxation.

Things were no different here at CAMO.

This month ushered in new staff members. Claudia Caballero moved into the Orrville area from Honduras in July to serve as the new Operations Manager. Kelsie Gerber, a native of the Orrville area, began filling the marketing needs of CAMO as the new Marketing and Community Relations Manager at the start of August. We wish them the best of success in their new positions.

The week of August 15th saw the complete Executive Staff together for the first time with the new employees. The members of the executive staff of Honduras traveled to Orrville for a week of team building activities, strategic planning, and meetings with their USA counterparts.



The Executive Staff working on team building

The operational managers worked together on our data base and placing a scanning system for our medical equipment, while our Marketing and project staff worked on communicating marketing concepts and procedures as well as developing and compartmentalizing the strategic plan that was developed this spring. Much was accomplished in and out of the office.

Golf Outing

For the 6th year, CAMO's Golf Scramble gathered together a dynamic crowd at The Pines Golf Club in June. The participating teams and sponsors for the event helped to raise \$9,400! Congratulations to the first place winners: Zipporah Groth, Howard Wenger, Jeff Wenger, and H.J. Wenger. Thanks to all the participants, volunteers, and our raffle prize donors. A special thanks to The Pines for providing another successful event, and to Marcia Murphy, Zipporah Groth and the many volunteers and sponsors for helping to make this year's scramble such a hit. We hope to see you all again next year!



Getting ready to take off- Ziporah getting the team ready

Salsa Sizzle

The Wooster Inn was host to a sizzling crowd Saturday, August 20th. People ate, danced, and socialized with friends and the dance floor was host to a lively crew all night long. We were able to raise an astounding \$19,333 to benefit CAMO's Domestic Violence Women's shelter in Santa Rosa, Honduras. Thanks to all of our sponsors and to all our live auction donors. A special thanks to Ruth Brown and her committee of volunteers who helped to make this event possible! It was a fabulous night helping a mighty cause.



The dance floor was full all night long!

Sangria Sunset

Mark your calendars for the Sangria Sunset on Saturday September 24th! Chris Conway and a Latin Jazz Orchestra will be serenading the festivities which include a dinner buffet catered by Señor Pancho's, a piñata, and dancing. Tickets are available at our Orrville office for \$40/ticket. The fun begins at 6 p.m. at 1050 Five Point Rd., Orrville.

This particular event is dedicated to the kitchen project at the hospital in Santa Rosa, Honduras. The kitchen was provided with basic cooking and refrigeration by CAMO in 1998, however the need for renovation was called to our attention by volunteers Roberta Randall and Deborah Marino. They observed many instances of contamination after the food left the kitchen due to improper cleaning causing illness among patients.

Each ward within the hospital has 30 beds, which more often than not consists of two individuals per bed. There is also one cleaning area per ward which cleans not only bed pans and mops, but the mealtime dishes as well. With only 19 plates to serve meals on per ward, the cleaning staff has been forced to clean the dishes in contaminated water to provide all the patients with meals.

The new kitchen project involves purchasing, installation, and training for use of a steam tray washing system, trays, drying racks and service carts for food delivery. This will afford individualized meals for the patients that are prepared in the kitchen, and provided on sanitized trays. It is always tragic to have practiced good medicine just for a patient to become ill or even die from an infection they receive from within the hospital.

Please come and help us with this project. It will have a great impact on the health of the 89,000 patient who use this hospital every year. So come support CAMO's effort to provide a safer environment for the patients of the western part of Honduras by attending the Sangria Sunset. All proceeds will benefit this kitchen project. The project will cost \$10,000.

"With every sunset comes a new day and a new opportunity to make a difference."



Housekeeping washing dishes in the sink of the ward

RAAM

Thank you, Mike McClintock. Your commitment towards supporting CAMO is greatly appreciated!

Many of you followed Mike during his eight day journey where he completed approximately 2,300 miles on bicycle. Mike helped to raise over \$8,000 for CAMO by biking in RAAM, Race Across America. His support and faith towards our program is an inspiration. And truly a victory.



Mike during his final stretch of race wearing a homemade neck brace of PC pipe and other items

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Upcoming Events:

Wayne County Fair, September 10-15

After grabbing some Lerch's donuts, and greasing up on some fries, be sure to stop by our booth at the Wayne County Fair, starting Saturday September 10th!

Don't forget about our Instrument Drive! We would love for you to bring us any old musical instruments that you would like to donate. We are also collecting used eye glasses and hearing aids, along with old cell phones. All these contributions would be greatly appreciated! If you would like to volunteer at the booth, please call our office.

Speaking engagements:

- September 7:** NEOMGMA - Canton
- September 7:** Women's Methodist Group – Wooster
- September 11:** Episcopal Church – Wooster
- September 15:** Doylestown Senior Citizens
- September 18:** Unitarian Church – Wooster
- October 12:** WCCF Key Note Speaker Annual Dinner
- October 22:** Teams to Honduras

If you are interested in a CAMO presentation, please call the office for scheduling or a listing of times and places.

CAMO is accredited by the Better Business Bureau and meets all 21 standards.



Please visit our website www.camo.org

Please remember those in need during these difficult economic times, and continue to give hope to the forgotten. Donations can be made online for your convenience. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated.

When you are done with this issue, please pass it along to someone you know who may be interested in our mission.