



A different kind of aid organization

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CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

EDUCATION

## In It For The Long Run

# Basic nursing procedure is the foundation of all nursing care.

Proper procedure is the difference between comfort and suffering, a good outcome and a poor one—and when a human life is at stake, that's a big deal.

Knowing this, in 1979, Kathy Brynes, Glady Castellanos and I sat in a 7' by 7' room with no windows for almost two years, working to create the first ever nursing procedure manual in Honduras. In 1981, I spent my last days in the Peace Corps behind an old stenograph machine, cranking out the completed pages one by one. Finally, I took the long bus ride into Tegucigalpa to bind those pages into twenty books so that each hospital ward could have one.

As late as 2012, this was still the only nursing procedure manual available in Honduras, the remaining copies carefully guarded by nurses. We convinced them to loan us a copy and converted it to a digital file. Next, four top nurses and a Public Health doctor from Honduras were chosen to come to the Aultman College of Nursing in the USA in June of 2014. Over the course of a month, four Aultman nursing instructors worked side by side with the Honduran staff to review and update the manual.

Between 2014 and 2017, we held yearly meetings with the Minister of Health in Honduras (like meeting with the Surgeon General of the USA). Each time, the Minister and Vice Ministers all wanted the manual for their private hospitals but none wanted to develop a manual for the public system, because that would hold them to a standard of nursing practice that still does not exist in Honduras. After the fourth meeting I thought, "There has to be another way of getting the manual to hospitals that need it." We decided that if every nurse could be trained with correct procedure as a foundation, the standard of care in Honduras would effectively be raised.

And that is exactly what we did created a fourteen-day nurse training curriculum based on the manual. Six hundred manuals have now been published, thanks to funding from the SG Foundation.

Implementation of the new training began at the end of February, 2018. The manual is now being used in the most prestigious university in Honduras, UNITEC, to train a nursing class of sixty; the country's three Catholic universities are currently reviewing the manual to adopt it for their nursing programs; and private hospitals have requested both the manual and training. Already we are adding procedures and preparing a second edition of the manual.

Our ultimate goal is to have every nursing school use this manual, so that through osmosis, correct procedure will become the standard.



Above: Nursing procedure manual— 37 years in the making. *Right:* Meeting with UNITEC USA: Dr. Javier Molina; Congressman, Juan Carlos Elvir; CAMO Founder, Kathy Tschiegg; University Director of Nursing, Dr. Teresa Carrillo; Debora Marino Ph.D.; Dr. Arun Masih,

Tim Larson RRT and Dr. Joseph Marino.



### EDUCATION

# The Need For Trained Respiratory Therapists

### Levit is a two year old boy with a history of pneumonia and nerve damage to the diaphragm.

Since his pneumonia at four months old, he has spent every day on a ventilator in the hospital. This hospital, with three hundred beds and two people per bed, has a budget that barely covers sheets and food. Its kitchen is infested with cockroaches; there is no money for fumigation, much less for basic supplies to care for patients like Levit. And yet this hospital has been recognized as one of the best public hospitals in Honduras. After my thirty-five years of experience and twenty-five years as founder of CAMO, I can assure you, the future is bleak for patients, like Levit, who must depend upon the public health system.

Because Respiratory Therapy is nonexistent in Levit's country, he has been treated by M.D.'s and R.N.'s with big hearts but limited expertise in respiratory equipment and treatment. Just before our arrival, Levit had suffered a cardiac arrest due to poor ventilation. As Respiratory Therapists Tim Larson and Susan Shetter helped with his care and recovery, they realized that the child urgently needed respiratory interventions that are not available anywhere in Honduras. In desperation, Susan called Pittsburgh Children's Hospital for a consult and then started the application process for Levit to be accepted as a patient.

Right now, Levit is still in Honduras, and the outlook is grave for this child who has captured all the hearts of everyone who has met him. Every day, Levit is exposed to other sick children in the ward. CAMO can provide education and respiratory support, but cannot provide the care that Levit desperately needs. Without a high-level evaluation, as well as respiratory interventions that are not available anywhere in Honduras, this child will die.

If anyone reading this has influence with a pediatric hospital that would be willing to transport and provide solutions for Levit, please contact us. Meanwhile, we are working hard to create a curriculum and training in the area of Respiratory Therapy, which is non-existent in Honduras at this time.

"After my thirty-five years of experience and twenty-five years as founder of CAMO, I can assure you, the future is bleak for patients, like Levit, who must depend upon the public health system." —Kathryn Tschiegg



Levit is a two-year old boy who has captured the hearts of everyone who has met him. From the age of four months, he has spent every day in the hospital on the ventilator.

It saddens me to inform you that little Levit passed away on April 9th during the production of this publication. His family, nurses, doctors, and community are mourning his loss with broken hearts.



Students at a rural school in Corquin find a quiet place to read. This school has tested top in regional math and science contests.

## Literacy

### Our literacy program is now in its fifth year.

Our first ten schools are thriving and we added three more this year. Zipporah Evania visits yearly, along with CAMO Honduras staff, to review the progress made during the past year. These efforts have paid off: we have seen a tremendous growth in the reading ability of the children in these schools. The children are now testing at the top levels in Honduras.

By contrast, many Honduran schools make little progress, and teachers express frustration with the lack of government support, text books, readers, and supplies since 1996. Why are CAMO's partner schools different? Because we not only provide support, but also implement systems of accountability to ensure that new libraries are maintained and donated books are used daily by students to improve their reading ability. After agreements are made, they are honored by both parties: schools that improve over the course of a year are given more books for the following year. Last year, we created an additional challenge: partner schools would be responsible for raising \$50 per school in order to buy more books. The schools rose to the challenge.

This year we selected Jorge Lopez, director of one of the elementary schools and champion of our literacy program for the past twelve years, to collaborate with CAMO on new projects. He not only improved children's academic performance—his school won first place in math and science tournaments—but also built a greenhouse, tree farm, and chicken farm. You can see the difference: clean, well-maintained facilities bear witness to the newfound pride this small, six-classroom school feels for its community. To build on his successful model, Jorge has agreed to work with the teachers of the twelve other partner schools, developing five-year plans to create sustainable schools no longer dependent on the bankrupt promises of government. As long as these schools continue to meet their commitments, CAMO will add screening services in hearing, vision, nutrition and dental health. Empowering local initiative is vital for development.

The greatest control over others is to keep people uneducated and misinformed. It is time to empower people! This can only be done by assuring a system where healthy children are educated to read and seek out information without bias. Only then will they be prepared to make individual decisions that support the greater good.

Special thanks to members of the Literacy Committee, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland, Third World Books and individual donors who all make this possible.





### EDUCATION

## Oxygen and Peace Permeate Every Soul Who Enters!

## Academy of Professional Excellence

The moment you step out of the vehicle, you are hit with a glorious view, a gentle breeze, and the peaceful sounds and scents of pine forests overlooking a mountain range. This is a perfect place for learning—oxygen permeates the very soul of everyone who arrives. Immense peace descends over you, whether student or instructor, as you enter the lawn and courtyard of the Academy.

In its first year of operations, the Academy has provided computer science classes to children bused in from six different elementary schools, and has also trained 1,168 medical students and professionals. In February and March, twelve nurses were trained in critical care skills. Literacy program teachers developed the leadership skills necessary to increase their schools' sustainability through initiatives such as micro-enterprises and community gardens. Twenty-five local leaders participated in a *Crucial Conversation* course led by Barbara Hauser and funded by Vital Smarts. Finally, the licensed nursing program held their first classes in March, and our nursing procedure book has been published and is being used in several universities and schools of nursing.





# A Different View

By C. Michel Bessette, R.R.T. from Canada

After only a few hours on my first day as a volunteer in the Biomedical Division at CAMO, I realized that I had come upon something truly special. One of my initial thoughts was, "These people are so very competent and caring."

The founder asked me to write a few words regarding my CAMO experiences and the impressions that I will take away from my time here in Santa Rosa de Copan. When I heard that a brigade would arrive from the United States, I thought to myself, "Now I'll see what CAMO is capable of handling." I witnessed no histrionics or misuse of the talents of the members of this brigade, which is in contrast to some of the confusion I have experienced with other health care NGO's in my 20 plus years of volunteering in Honduras.

The verdict: CAMO is capable of expertly managing all areas in which they have an interest! Their scope of services offered is outstanding!

Some groups parachute into Honduras, plant their banner, leave some medications and supplies and then head to the Bay Islands for some "well deserved" R&R.

Many years ago, CAMO's founder planted a sapling in Santa Rosa de Copan and nurtured it into a strong and vibrant tree whose branches have touched the lives of countless people in Honduras, allowing them to overcome physical and mental difficulties and giving them the chance to access healthier and fulfilling futures.

*Top:* View from the Academy's parking lot. *Bottom:* Twelve nurses being trained in the basics of critical care.



Michel Bessette is a Registered Respiratory & Anesthesia Technologist who began volunteering in Honduras in 1995. He has participated in projects with the NGO's Community Clinics and the Pan American Health Organization, as well as with the Secretary of Health in Honduras and Costa Rica. In addition to his Respiratory and Anesthesia work, he offers Biomedical Technological Services for compressed gas systems and hyperbaric chambers. He resides in Ottawa, Canada.

# A Glimpse of the Journey

### As they say, life is not a destination, but a journey. CAMO has been on its journey for twenty-five years.

Our Honduras and USA staff and volunteers work every day to bring muchneeded supplies, equipment and education to over sixty different institutions per year. CAMO Honduras staff and volunteers travel to rural villages twice a week to provide a wide range of medical and educational services. Every weekend, trainers travel throughout the country to provide training programs like courses certified by the American Heart Association.

But three weeks out of every year we change our focus. Normal services in Honduras stop; instead, medical specialists come to Honduras to work with their counterparts. The journey for twenty-one CAMO volunteers, each with their own specialty and talents, begins at 3 a.m. on a Saturday morning, when volunteers meet at different airports across the USA to board

flights to Atlanta. There, they meet up with the rest of the team and race to make the gate for their final destination: Honduras. Once in Honduras, everyone must wait patiently in line to clear customs, which can take up to two hours. But Honduras CAMO staff are there to help first-time visitors through the maze.

This year, the long and winding ride to Santa Rosa seemed even longer than in other years due to road repairs, single-line traffic, and pot holes in which you could easily lose an axle. The bus ride was more like a game of dodge ball, with constant swerves to avoid hazards. The typical two and a half hour trip turned into a four hour odyssey as the volunteers' long day turned to dusk.

Next day, no time to recover-everyone wakes early. Each talented volunteer puts

in full ten-hour days for the rest of the week, side by side with their Honduran counterparts. And the next week, the whole process is repeated with another group fresh from the U.S.

At the end of their first week, Deb and Nancy, longtime volunteers, were asked how they felt about their return to Honduras and their service with CAMO. They looked at each other, tears filling their eyes, and said, "Good luck putting this into words." But they did a fine job: "It is the hugs we receive from the Honduran staff, as if no time has passed between the years, and the love that is felt for us and our Honduran counterparts. It is the gratitude of the patients and knowing that we have made a profound difference." This is why we do what we do!

Whether by volunteering or donating, you have changed and saved lives. Thank you for being part of something incredible and making a profound difference for so many people. More than 139,000 individuals are impacted every year. Without your help as a donor or volunteer, none of this would be possible.





#### Week One Team

Back row, left to right: Joe Marino, Brian Miller, Steve Farby, Deb Marino, Steve Wood, David Dycus, Gary Brown, Linda Louttit, Fabiola Jerez, Marco Robles, Kevin Waltz, Alvaro Fernandez, Kathy Brynes, Mark Hanson.

#### Second row, left to right:

Cristian Salinas, Sofia Rivera, Diana Gomez, Carmen Fajado, Nick Relle, Angela Stasik, Hannah Loder, Jean Morgan, Debra Miller, Patty Wood, Linda Camp.

Front row, left to right: John Delgado, Helen Melgar, Loretta Erb, Cindy Mullet, Barbara McKee, Kathy Tschiegg, Lori Kemper, Ken Cedeno, Era Fedak, Yeny Garcia.

#### Week Two Team

Back row, left to right: Harold Shetter, Arun Masih, Tony Lazcano, Joe Marino, Glenn Bower, Tim Larson.

Second row, left to right: Susan Shetter, Susan Borocz, Deb Miller, Bob Warner, Kathy Tschiegg, Hannah Loder, Zipporah Evania, **Buzz Emanuel.** 

Front row, left to right: Nancy Nikiforow, Loretta Erb, Cindy Mullet, Barbara McKee, Karla Alvarez, Yeny Garcia, Ken Cedeno.

# SERVICES Putting Things In Perspective

Sometimes we complain about minor problems with our appearance—our hair color, a pimple, a dark spot, a small scar—and fail to appreciate how minor those things are in comparison to what other people suffer.

The plastic surgery team, led by Dr. Linda Camp, includes Laurie Kemper, R.N.; Dr. David Dycus, anesthesiologist from Indianapolis; Jean Morgan and Era Fedak, nurse practitioners from Canton, Ohio; and Deb Miller and Nancy Liken, R.N.'s from Wooster, Ohio. All ended their week with smiles, because they had provided surgical procedures to twenty-five patients, repairing severe deformities and providing hope for a better future.

Below: Danna was born without an ear. Last year, the first stage of surgical repair was initiated; this year, her father comforts her as she awaits second stage surgery.



GO GREEN!



Above Left: In an accident, Modesto lost his nose; his sister convinced him to come in for plastic surgery. Above Right: This was his second year of surgery to complete the repair.



Donate your old cell phones and empty ink/toner cartridges to CAMO.

Please call the office for more information. 330.683.5956 or 330.313.1000

# **Dental Team**

## What keeps people coming back to Honduras to serve on the dental team?

One word: relationships. Our dental team members share a commitment to service as an undeniable calling. They give full credit to Mark Gustafson DDS, who personally reached out to each volunteer and convinced them to join the team. After more than twenty years, Mark has passed his leadership role on to others, but he is with us in spirit as we go out to the villages.

The dental team is part of the CAMO family. Dentists Steve Farby, Grant Turner, and Nick Relle are joined by dental hygienists Linda Louttit and Loretta Erb (a twenty year volunteer), Angie Stasik (a second year volunteer), and dental assistant Cindy Mullet (an eighteen year volunteer), all from different parts of Ohio, as well as Kathy Brynes from Massachusetts and Barbara McKee from Kansas. This dental team is one of seven specialty groups that visited Honduras in the first week of brigades.

The USA dental teams bring resources so the CAMO Honduras Dental Staff can continue to treat between 8,000 to 9,000 children per year. This week alone, the combined dental team treated 504 children.

Giving children relief from toothaches, as well as a smile and a hug, creates relationships without barriers due to culture, religion or political beliefs. All pettiness is transcended in these moments.



## **Help Our Dental Program by Providing Dental Kits**

**Dental kits include:** toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, wash cloth and bar of soap.

**CALL THE CAMO OFFICE** AT 330.683.5956 FOR MORE INFORMATION







Left: Hygienists Linda and Lorretta cleaning the children's teeth. Above: Dental team set up in the mayor's office and fluoride treatment being given in the girls' orphanage.

### MEDICAL SERVICES

## Nutrition

# Feeding the hungry and improving nutrition are not easy jobs.

Where do you start? How can you have the greatest impact? These are the questions Deb Marino Ph.D., Joe Marino M.D., and Brain Miller Ph.D. analyzed daily during their four week visit to Honduras. Meanwhile, in the USA, Theresa Bedell and Sarah Hamlin were working to raise funds to enable CAMO to employ the first full time clinical nutritionist in this region and to purchase evaluation tools and special medical foods. The event was successful, raising enough for the first year of wages and supplies—and now Bianca Ramirez, a recent graduate of one of the first clinical nutrition programs in Honduras, will start her job on April 1, 2018.

We brainstormed to determine how we could optimize one individual without overwhelming her, as the needs are so great. We decided to link her with the medical services that CAMO Honduras currently provides through the thirteen schools



Left: Nutrition team: Brian Miller, Joe Marino, Bianca Ramirez and Deb Marino.

Below: Nutritionist Debora Marina evaluating a patient in the pediatric ward. participating in our literacy program. Bianca will join these teams to identify malnourished children, as well as others at risk, and will also work with teachers to improve dietary habits through nutrition education.

But her impact does not stop there: it is vitally important that we follow up with children and their families to reverse nutrition-related illnesses and restore them to a vibrant state of health. Brian Miller, a genius in data collection and analysis, has used hospital data to identify geographical pockets of severe malnutrition. We will be targeting these areas to help those who are affected most.

So how do you feed the hungry? We do not have all the answers, but the first steps are to identify and treat malnutrition and teach methods of healthy food production, as you will read in the article on CAMO's literacy program. By connecting our literacy programs with our medical services, Bianca can help to improve nutrition, vision, hearing and dental care for all children in Honduras. All of these efforts work hand-in-hand to create a better future for underserved populations. Join these efforts by donating to CAMO so we can continue to provide life-changing interventions.



## Now You See It, Now You Don't

## Now you see it, now you don't—that is how a cataract first appears.

But left untreated, this large white mass on the lens will eventually render one blind. In the United States, doctors diagnose and treat this vision impairment early and surgery generally takes less than ten minutes. In Honduras, by contrast, surgery often takes over an hour because people are not diagnosed until the cataract is dense, hard, and covering the entire lens, rendering the patient totally blind. CAMO's visiting ophthalmologists are surprised and impressed by the skill of their Honduran counterparts in being able to remove these blinding crystals.

Before cataract surgery, the patient bumps into walls, needs help for daily care, and stumbles day and night to navigate life; they must be led into the operating room. The miracle comes the next day when the patch is removed: first disbelief, then a smile, then confidence restored as they

### "One of the greatest moments is being a witness to this incredible renewal of vision." —Dr. Mark Hanson

take a hesitant first step without assistance. At that moment, you know this person's life has been permanently changed for the better. As Dr. Mark Hanson, part of CAMO's surgical team, put it, "One of the greatest moments is being a witness to this incredible renewal of vision."

This year, our ophthalmology team traveled to San Pedro and continued on to Santa Rosa where they trained Honduran doctors and performed ninety-seven surgeries. The team comes from all over the world: Dr. Kevin Waltz and Dr. Mark





Above: The large white mass on the patient's lens is a cataract that, left untreated, would eventually result in blindness. Over 480 patients received this sight restoring surgery through CAMO each year.

Hanson from Indiana; John Delgalo, Interpreter from Indiana; Dr. Alvaro Fernandez Vega from Spain; along with Dr. Marco Robles, Dr. Hector Robles, and Dr. Fabiola Jerez from Honduras, were assisted by CAMO Honduras staff phacoemulsification technicians Jorge Moncada, Carmen Carbaja, and surgical nurse Aurora Reyes. Dr. Waltz, who is passionate about bringing better technology to Central America and training ophthalmology residents, continued on to El Salvador and then returned to Honduras to present his work at an ophthalmology conference.



# Many Hands Make Light Work!

## With most of the hustle and bustle in Honduras, it's easy to overlook all the activities that go on in our Orrville warehouse.

While only a part of what makes CAMO tick, USA operations are a major piece of the whole puzzle.

In the past few months we have received many skids-full of donations, all checked and sorted by hard-working volunteer groups. Not only do we have new full-time employees, but new volunteers of all ages have been helping out as well. From youth groups to Sunday school classes to retired people: we appreciate all our volunteers' hard work and their many contributions.

Our volunteers accomplish a wide range of tasks: every week, nurses sort medical supplies; biomedical engineers evaluate medical equipment; craters secure equipment for shipment; drivers collect donations; organizers coordinate fundraiser activities like our Golf Outing and Salsa Sizzle; and packers ensure that everything is properly packaged. Without our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to send seven trailers containing over two million dollars worth of donated aid to Honduras every year; nor would we be able to serve more than 139,000 people per year.





We are always looking for new volunteers to join our CAMO family and welcome you to tour our facility and learn how you can get involved.

# Dedicated People Can Make the Difference

### It all started with the story of a vulture.

Every day, perched on the cross above the courtyard of a hospital in Honduras, he awaited his meal of human tissue discarded after that day's surgery. Dr. Arun Masih, Chief of Staff of Wooster Community Hospital, heard this story in 2005; as a pathologist, Dr. Masih was intrigued. The vulture inspired Dr. Masih's twelve year journey with CAMO, which ultimately resulted in his development of the first pathology lab in the western region of Honduras with the help of Susan Borocz, a histotechnologist.

Developing a lab might seem easy by stateside standards—but in Honduras, where few pathology labs exist, just one or two pathologists graduate per year, and there is no formal education for cytotechnologists or histotechnologists. The journey was far from easy. The pathology system in Honduras maintains a monopoly worthy of the mafia. So we worked together to build and equip the lab, train staff, and develop a curriculum. This year, three students will graduate.

The next step is to create a locally run and sustainable program. Dr. Masih and the CAMO educational development team and staff met with leadership of two of the three major universities in Honduras to share our curriculum. The meeting will enable these hospitals to develop the first programs to train licensed professionals in cytotechnology and respiratory therapy—neither of which currently exists in Honduras.

Meanwhile, in Santa Rosa de Copan, the CAMO pathology lab is functioning well. We process and interpret approximately 2,000 pap smears and 140 biopsies per month, enabling early detection and treatment of disease and thus saving many lives. Last year, in just one of thirteen regions covered by this lab, forty-three women flagged through early diagnosis were treated for cervical cancer. Twelve years of arduous development of our pathology lab and staff has paid off: Dr. Masih and Susan Borocz have made a tremendous impact. Dedicated people can make a difference. But it takes time and it is not for the weak of heart.



*Top:* Dr. Arun Masih working with Dr. Tanya Lanza in Honduras. *Bottom:* Susan Borocz teaching two of the laboratory technicians in QA.

## Shipments to Honduras

APRIL 15, 2018 MAY 30, 2018 JUNE 16, 2018

### APRIL 25, 2018

Spring Clean-up and Planting of Orrville CAMO facility (Smithville Brethren Church Youth Group; flowers provided by Buchwalter Green House and mulch provided by Woodland Mulch).

## Swing for Hope!

JUNE 9TH, 2018: THE PINES GOLF CLUB

### CAMO's 13th Annual Golf Outing

Registration and complimentary breakfast begin at 7 a.m., and the event officially begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. The golf outing will be followed by lunch, awards and a silent auction. All proceeds support shipping supplies to Honduras for redistribution.

Entry fee includes: continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf with cart, driving range balls, goodie bag, hole-in-one contest and proximity awards. Golfers, volunteers and sponsors are needed. Please call the CAMO office to sign up a foursome or become a sponsor.



## Wayne County Fair

### SEPTEMBER 8–13: LOOK FOR BOOTH #20 IN THE COMMERCIAL BUILDING

For more updates and information about CAMO, visit **camo.org**, Facebook or Instagram





j instagram.com @camobringshope



## Salsa Sizzle

### AUGUST 18, 2018: WOOSTER INN

### CAMO's 10th Annual Salsa Sizzle

Mark your calendars for CAMO's 10th Annual Salsa Sizzle on Saturday, August 18 from 6-11 p.m. at the Wooster Inn. The night is filled with live Latin Jazz music, delicious Latin-inspired food, a celebrity bartending competition, and both a live and silent auction. Last year, this event raised \$42,519. The goal this year is \$45,000.

All proceeds benefit the programs serving those in urgent need. The Salsa Sizzle fundraiser allows CAMO to keep the doors open at the shelter and allows CAMO to continue to support sixty-four medical teams who provide medical services to small villages throughout the year.







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## Give A Gift That Really Matters!



Help CAMO continue to provide life-saving and life-changing services in Honduras. Throughout the year, consider saving the money you might spend on something conventional—instead, put your money where it counts. Think about that expensive daily coffee habit; the cost of just one cup could buy a book for our literacy program. Or consider the gift of caring; reimagine gift-giving for yourself and your loved ones by donating in memory or in honor of someone special. Your help is vital to keep providing life changing service to those in the greatest need.

Visit camo.org or call the CAMO office 330-683-5956 for more information.



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### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Make a donation • Host a fundraiser! Need ideas? Call the CAMO office or email camo@camo.org!

Volunteer onsite or offsite CAMO needs volunteers!

Your legacy could include CAMO! Consider planned giving!

Know someone who would like to learn about CAMO? Please send us their contact info!

Find CAMO on Facebook Invite your friends to learn about what we do!



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

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